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spring

2007

KILLER TELEVISION

HOW MEDIA INFLUENCE PERCEPTIONS OF VIOLENCE

■ Battle of the sexes

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8 UPFRONT

Battle of the sexes

Stereotypes of men and women are nothing more than assumed characteristics – often incorrect generalizations. However, as these stereotypes change, as suggested by media hype, could the gender gap in violence also be changing? And looking to the future, is the rise of female bullying further reason for concern?

By Kris Foster

12 COVER STORY

Killer television — How media influence perceptions of violence

Although crime rates are in decline, media outlets are pumping out more violence-rich stories. Critics charge that the media do this because violence sells. The result is that people feel that their personal safety is at risk.

By Scott Foster

16 ALUMNI PROFILES

A day at the office

Nahlah Ayed, MJ/97, has been bruised and battle-tested since joining the CBC in 2002 as a news correspondent. She has covered major events in the Middle East – from the war in Iraq to the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri. Ayed's day at the office is anything but normal.

By Bryan Mullan

Making corrections

Keith Coulter, PhD/95, is charged with the smooth operation of 58 federal prisons across Canada. As the commissioner of Correctional Service Canada, Coulter knows first-hand about the range and complexity of issues facing Canada's correctional system.

By Erin Sweet

30 CLASS ACTS

As winter turned to spring, Carleton alumni were busy: members of the Carleton University Alumni Association helped launch the new Career Connection Speaker Series; Carleton University's Attendant Services Program celebrated 20 years of innovative service; grads from years past celebrated on campus at Alumni Reunion Weekend; plus more alumni news on careers, accomplishments, marriages and families.

2 VIEWPOINTS

4 CU ONLINE

6 LETTERS

20 SPORTS

22 GIVING TO CARLETON

24 CAMPUS LIFE

26 FACULTY FOCUS

38 ON CAMPUS

44 WORLDWIDE



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EDITOR'S NOTE



Photo: Mike Pinder

I can't start my editor's note with a clever anecdote about violence. Any tale of violence that I experienced in my childhood is antiquated and not so relevant today. When I was growing up there were bullying and schoolyard fights — but those have changed. Bullying consisted of name calling, and after-school fights generally involved tugging at tee-shirts and throwing the occasional punch. These events now often involve severe harassment and even the use of weapons. It seems that violence in the world just keeps escalating.

Throughout history there have always been horrific events. The difference today is that because of media and technology we have access to all of the stories — stories depicting the events in our neighbourhoods, cities, countries and world. We can expose ourselves to a 24/7 onslaught of gory details through all types of media.

There is so much violence reported, in fact, that I wondered if we were becoming desensitized to it. As I watch the news ticker scroll across the bottom of my television screen, recounting death, war, missing children, Britney's new hairstyle, and a myriad of other stories, I can't help but think that it doesn't register, that it doesn't sink in and that maybe violence doesn't have the same impact it once did. This is an ongoing debate.

But after the events at Virginia Tech, I know that I'm not desensitized to acts of violence — 33 people were killed and that is something I will remember for the rest of my life.

It is a shocking statistic that one third of all Canadians, in one way or another, have been involved in a criminal or violent offence. While it is easy to blame media for sticking to the mantra that "violence sells," they don't make up the stories, they merely report them. I certainly don't know who is to blame or how to fix it, but what is clear is that it needs to be fixed. At Carleton there is much work going into this area. Many members of the Department of Psychology are looking at the current state of affairs. They are researching trends in bullying, violent behaviour, rehabilitation of criminal offenders, and prediction and prevention of criminal behaviour, just to name a few. On campus, the Department of University Safety works around the clock to ensure that the university population is safe. And the School of Journalism and Communication continues to train responsible journalists who report stories from around the world and put these stories in context.

In this issue we hope to shed some light on how Carleton University is making contributions to set us on the right path.

Kris Foster
Editor

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2007

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FROM THE TOP

Spring is a time for celebration at Carleton University. During the past few months the university has held a number of events that celebrate the achievements of our faculty, staff, alumni and students – the Teaching and Research Achievement Award Reception, the Donor Recognition Dinner, the Athletics Banquet, Alumni Reunion Weekend and the Industrial Design Graduation Show, to name a few. Planning is now well underway for Spring Convocation, our biggest and most inclusive celebratory event of the year. Convocation is a wonderful occasion to recognize the academic achievements of our students, and to give their families, as well as faculty and staff, an opportunity to share in their success. This year, 4,000 students will graduate from Carleton University to pursue their dreams, whether they be careers or further studies, and join the 100,000 proud members of the Carleton University Alumni Association.

Spring is also a time for planning and preparing for the upcoming academic year. We have been pursuing a highly energetic agenda to initiate new academic programs and program options and electives that will equip Carleton University students with the education and skills they need to succeed and contribute in a global society. Recently, Senate approved a suite of exciting and innovative programs for fall 2007, including a graduate program in intelligence and national security, a computer science program in computer game development, and new undergraduate degrees in religion and in Greek and Roman studies, among others.

We are also looking ahead to 2008 and have approved a new BAHons in global politics, a new bachelor of aerospace engineering stream in space systems design, and a new BA in applied economics. And we are now exploring the option of expanding interdisciplinary studies in future years by offering programs of concurrent studies that combine the BA degree with professional education. Our objective is to provide BA students with opportunities for concurrent work and study programs that will give them a competitive edge for employment and in future careers.

All of these changes reflect positive and timely responses to developments taking place nationally as well as globally, and build on the university's long history of exciting, groundbreaking academic programs.

As our academic programs continue to evolve, so too does Carleton University's standing on the national and global stages. As proud Carleton University alumni you serve as ambassadors for our university. By sharing our highlights and accomplishments with friends, family members and colleagues — by telling Carleton's story — you help advance our success.

The future is filled with opportunities for our alumni to share in our achievements and to help us attain new successes. For that, and for your exceptional support to date, I thank each and every member of the Carleton University alumni family.

Samy Mahmoud, MEng/71, PhD/75
President and Vice-Chancellor *pro tempore*
Carleton University



THE WINNER IS...

Emeka Ekwosimba, a fourth-year law student at Carleton, is the inaugural recipient of the Richard J. Van Loon Scholarship, valued at \$5,000. The scholarship was established to honour the former president on the eve of his retirement in 2005. Van Loon asked that the award be directed to an African student who has demonstrated high academic performance but requires financial aid in order to pursue a course of study at Carleton. Ekwosimba, who will be graduating this year, will use the scholarship to pursue a master's degree at NPSIA.



Emeka Ekwosimba

"The scholarship is a great way to recognize what international students, especially those from developing countries, go through and what they contribute through their studies to the community," says Ekwosimba, who is originally from Nigeria.

Since his second year, Ekwosimba has been involved in raising awareness of the effect of HIV/AIDS. He is the co-founder of the Carleton University AIDS Awareness Society and one of 10 Canadians selected to be involved in a United Nations Association in Canada project entitled *It's Time to Act: Mobilizing Young Canadians Around HIV/AIDS*.

"Carleton provides you with a wealth of opportunities geared towards development and effecting positive changes in the community," says Ekwosimba. "The programs are structured to equip you with skills which one can apply directly in various daily activities. I recommend Carleton to any student who wishes to acquire

the knowledge and skills needed to shape our increasingly complex and interconnected society."

SUITE OF NEW PROGRAMS

The Carleton University Senate approved a suite of new programs for fall 2007 including: a new graduate option in the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs on intelligence and national security; a computer science program in computer game development; and undergraduate degrees in religion and Greek and Roman Studies.

"These newest additions to Carleton University's academic offerings build on the university's long history of innovative, groundbreaking academic programs," says Samy Mahmoud, president and vice-chancellor *pro tempore*.

In addition, the Washington Center Internship Program for upper-year and graduate-level political science students has been approved. Under this program, interns will spend a semester or summer in Washington, D.C. "These internships provide the best possible opportunity for our students to get practical political and job experience working in the American capital," says Melissa Haussman, associate professor, Department of Political Science, who is responsible for the program.

Among the other changes in Carleton's programs:

- The Technology Innovation Management program, offered by the Faculty of Engineering and Design, is being expanded and will, for a second year in a row, offer a web-based degree program.
- The master's program in European and Russian Studies is being expanded to include Eurasian Studies and was renamed the Institute of European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies.
- NPSIA and the School of Computer Science will offer new graduate level co-op options.
- Significant changes have been made to the School of Public Policy and Public Administration's programs at the masters and graduate diploma levels to make both programs more suited to student needs and demands.

- And many graduate programs have modified their requirements to open up new and quicker pathways to graduation.

RE-WELCOMING SEVEN VARSITY PROGRAMS

After an extensive review by the University Executive, some changes were made to Carleton's varsity programs. There will be 19 varsity teams competing next year, as men's rugby was not granted varsity status.

An initial report from the Department of Recreation and Athletics had proposed to move eight sports teams — men's and women's rowing, men's and women's golf, men's and women's swimming, women's field hockey and men's rugby — from varsity to competitive club status as cost-saving measures. Feedback on the report was encouraged and an appeal process put in place prior to any final decision by senior management.

Senior management expanded the list of factors and criteria, taking into consideration: the cost benefit of these programs in terms of visibility in the community; the student experience; and the availability of opportunities for student athletes to compete. Also considered was the significant role the varsity sport system plays in preparing athletes for provincial and national teams. This is the case with field hockey, where the lack of a local club system, the outpouring of community support, and Carleton's responsibility at the national level played a role in senior management's final decision.

This re-investment allows Carleton to build on the success of its recent national championships in basketball and Nordic skiing, take advantage of its outstanding facilities, and expand the services provided to competitive clubs.

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TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION

I am a graduate of the Sprott School of Business with a focus in information systems. I was just reading the winter 2007 issue of the magazine and wanted to say that it was the best issue I have read to date. The issue was on the technology flux so it made me think about a project I am working on with the HotLab at Carleton.

Our project SpokenText.net allows anyone to upload text (.txt), Power-



Point (.ppt), Acrobat (.pdf) or Word (.doc) files and have them converted to spoken audio. We also let you record text from a website or enter the text you need converted directly. Once recorded, you can download the files for listening on an iPod or other portable audio device — or use our online audio player to listen to them using your web browser.

Many students are using it from countries all over the world to listen to course notes, books and journal articles.

I am legally blind and originally created the site to help the visually impaired, but many other people are also finding the site useful, which is great!

The site is free and you can register for an account at spokentext.net/register.php.

Sincerely,
Mark McKay, BCom/01

ANOTHER ONE FOR THE RHODES

This is a quick note in response to your article in the winter 2007 edition of *Carleton University Magazine* which celebrated the award of a Rhodes Scholarship to Michael Urban.

In the article, you mention that Urban was the fourth known Carleton student to win this scholarship. As a proud Carleton grad who won the Rhodes Scholarship the year following my graduation, I felt I needed to set the record straight. Though I may not have formally won the Rhodes while still at Carleton, I know that my experience and studies there were directly instrumental in being granted the award — I will always be a proud Carleton grad!

Brian Rolfes, BPA/87

GREETINGS FROM THE CAPITAL OF AUSTRALIA

I'm delighted to be receiving for the first time — 36 years after I attended Carleton's seminal masters program in public administration — the magazine.

Thanks,
Vernon Kronenberg, MA/71



NO LONGER A HEATED GLOBAL CONTROVERSY?

In the spring 2005 edition of the magazine you printed a story titled "Global warming? Controversy heats up in the scientific community" reporting on the scientific controversy surrounding global warming. I will not debate whether or not there was a scientific controversy back then. But there is certainly not a scientific controversy about the issue anymore. Current scientific fact on the subject is summarized at: ipcc.ch/SPM2feb07.pdf

Thank you,
James Adcock

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Battle of THE SEXES

"Lizzie Borden took an axe,
and gave her mother forty whacks.
When she saw what she had done,
she gave her father forty-one."

BY KRIS FOSTER

Lizzie Borden's story is well known. She was connected to the brutal axe murders of her father and stepmother in 1892 when she was 32 years old. Her guilt in these murders was never proven, but, nonetheless, her story has become an integral part of North American folklore and an interesting case study in the field of criminology. The idea that a sweet daughter could be involved in such a heinous act was an anomaly — it went against all stereotypes of women being made of sugar and spice and all things nice. The fact that there is a children's schoolyard rhyme about these killings is an indication of the perceived novelty of her alleged crime. You certainly never hear any children reciting rhymes about Jack the Ripper.

"We still have the stereotypes: women are caring, sensitive and emotional, but bitchy and liable to burst into tears," says Carleton social psychologist Margaret Foddy. "Men are strong, assertive and independent, but prone to aggression and violence." The attitude prevails that 'boys will be boys'.

Statistics support this. Men comprise approximately 95 per cent of the

incarcerated population worldwide. In Canada alone men comprise the majority of those who have had involvement in crime during their lifetime — 2.6 million out of 3.3 million. However, some media hype has suggested that the gender gap in violence is closing.

Women are now recognized as having the right and capability to lead independent lives, Foddy says. "Women have a wider array of opportunities now, which include doing bad stuff. Lots of women traffic drugs, lots of women bash up their children, and so on," she says. "And although stereotypes support the idea of women as more caring and sensitive than men, these are just stereotypes," says Foddy.

Women's role models are changing too. Move over Betty Crocker, make room for *Thelma and Louise*. "Look at Angelina Jolie as Lara Croft, Tomb Raider," says Foddy. This equal opportunity to kick butt may mean that women are acquiring the capability to be as violent as men.

THE GENDER GAP IN VIOLENCE

But are women actually becoming as violent as men? Shelley Brown, BA-

Hons/92, MA/95, who studies the psychology of individual criminal conduct, says that the data don't bear this out. "This very question was examined in the United States during the 1970s and again as recently as 2006. In short, the quantitative data from the '70s and 2006 do not support the hypothesis that women are becoming as violent as men."

"It's a question of behaviour versus policy," Brown says. "It's not the level of violence that's changed; it's policy that has changed." She goes on to say that recent research in the United States demonstrates that over the last two decades there has been a sharp rise in the ratio of female to male arrests for criminal assaults. "In contrast, the same upward trend has not been observed in national victimization surveys — surveys that ask the general public whether or not they have been victimized by crime. The American researchers hypothesize that one reason for this discrepancy is that less serious forms of violence, typically the purview of women offenders, are now being over-criminalized — harassment has become simple assault, simple assault has become aggravated assault



Tina Daniels, associate professor in the Carleton psychology department

and so forth. So, contrary to popular belief, the gender gap in violence has not closed, at least according to American researchers." Brown says she is currently investigating similar research questions in Canada.

Throughout history, the study of women and crime has been overlooked. "Traditionally," Brown says, "researchers assumed what worked for men — whether in the realm of risk assessment or treatment — should and would work for women. Girls and women in conflict with the law have typically been treated as correctional afterthoughts."

A related area that interests Brown is risk assessment, particularly the development of gender responsive risk assessment tools. "Correctional agencies and parole boards need to know who is likely to re-offend and when," she says. While there are a number of reliable and valid risk assessment tools for males, there are few comparable tools developed specifically for girls and women. However, regardless of gender, risk assessment tools must incorporate both static risk factors

— factors associated with past behaviour that won't change as a function of treatment (e.g. criminal history) — and dynamic risk factors — factors associated with present behaviour that can and will change over time (e.g. gains made in treatment).

{ According to Tina Daniels, an associate professor in the Carleton psychology department, girls may be sugar and spice, but not everything's nice. }

"Both past and present behaviour are highly predictive of future behaviour," she says.

STICKS, STONES AND WORDS

Considering past behaviour as an indicator of future behaviour, current research into the increase in female bullying may suggest that we are heading in the wrong direction.

According to Tina Daniels, an associate professor in the Carleton psychology department, girls may be sugar and spice, but not everything's nice. That's the title of her mini-course on bullying. The course is aimed at

eighth grade girls — they're the ones who need it most. Daniels says that's when social and relational aggression peaks. She defines the term as "the manipulation of social relationships with the purpose of being hurtful."

This manipulation usually takes two forms: gossip and exclusion. She gives a real-life example of girls who spread a rumour that one of their classmates was pregnant. The rumour gained enough currency that the school counsellor called the 'pregnant' girl into her office for some advice. The emotional scars from this kind of assault can be deeper and longer lasting than physical scars.

A more disturbing example that Daniels uses is the 2000 case of Dawn-Marie Wesley. After being subjected to months of repeated verbal threats and harassment from other girls, the Mission, B.C., teenager hung herself. Two of the girls involved were brought to court, and one of them was found guilty of uttering threats and criminal harassment. The judge determined that Wesley had been bullied so severely that she feared for her life.

This type of bullying has become so prevalent among girls that the numbers of male and female bullies are now roughly equal, Daniels says.

However, she notes, "Boys' bullying is more physical and tends to be directed outside the group; whereas with girls, it takes place within the group." Although she dislikes the term, there's a 'queen bee phenomenon' at work, with one girl as the hive's aggressive leader.

Boys' bullying is also more visible because girls are taught that aggression is not nice. "Conflict is never face to face," she says. To borrow a phrase coined by psychologist Carol Gilligan, there's a "tyranny of niceness" imposed on girls that drives their aggression underground. One estimate is

that teachers are aware of only 30 per cent of social and relational bullying.

Exclusion can be just as harmful. Daniels says an example might be one girl saying to another, "My mom says I can invite six of my friends to my birthday party, but you're not one of them."

Although this kind of social bullying can occur as early as at three years of age, peer relationships become important to girls in Grade 4, when they're about nine years old. This is the time when girls acquire 'best friends for life' every year. As a result, they're at their most vulnerable to social and relational bullying.

And there's a brave new world of bullying to consider as well: the internet. Michael Chettleburgh, a crime prevention consultant and author, told the Third International Conference on Bullying and Character Edu-



Carleton social psychologist Margaret Foddy

cation in Ottawa in early April, that "bullying is getting more cyber-based now." Daniels agrees, noting that MSN is a favourite way to bully by spreading rumours. She adds that social networks like Facebook can also be used

to exclude people: "Let's not put Mary on our list of friends to contact."

Daniels, in addition to addressing the Ottawa conference, has met with Ontario school boards, parents and victims. She has also written a manual for Girl Guides of Canada leaders to help them identify and deal with instances of social aggression. Daniels advocates the creation of leadership and mentor programs designed for would-be bullies. "Bullying is always about power and control," she says. By giving girls a greater sense of control over their own lives, such programs will help girls channel their energy in a more positive way.

Sugar and spice indeed. Perhaps it's more like 'girls will be girls'. "This problem is often dismissed as 'a girl thing', but we must realize this: if nothing is done, there can be serious repercussions," says Daniels. ■



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KILLER TELEVISION



HOW MEDIA INFLUENCE PERCEPTIONS OF VIOLENCE

BY SCOTT FOSTER

Students fled from Dawson College's campus by the hundreds. Some were making frantic calls on their cell phones. Some had blood on their clothes. All had the unmistakable look of fear and confusion on their faces as they ran past the bumper-to-bumper traffic in Montreal's downtown core.

Rosemary Barton, MJ/01, first saw these panicked students from the passenger seat of a work van. The CBC TV reporter and her cameraman were sent to the college after gunshots were heard from somewhere within the campus. But that's the only information they had to go on.

The cars in front of their CBC van were hardly moving. Barton was impatient. Once they got within three blocks of the school, she hopped out. Before dashing off, she turned to her cameraman and said: "Call me, and find me."

She hurried past the line of cars, weaving her way through the pedestrians until she reached the edge of the police perimeter. There, she tracked down as many students as possible, asking them all one simple question: "What did you see?"

After she got 10 separate but similar descriptions of a gunman, the picture was becoming clearer: all witnesses said the shooter was a male with black hair, a black trench coat and black boots.

A few minutes later, Barton was re-

porting live to CBC Newsworld. She would continue giving live updates on the situation for the next four hours, being careful to stick to facts and describe the scene the best she could. The full picture was still murky.

Gradually, it became known that Kimveer Gill, 25, had opened fire on a crowd in one of the college's buildings, killing 18-year-old Dawson student Anastasia DeSousa and injuring 19 others before taking his own life during a shootout with police.

For several days afterward, Barton would file stories related to the shooting. Some were on the shooter, which meant going to his family's neighbourhood to interview residents who might have known Gill. Other stories dealt with the victims' recovery in the hospital.

AMPLIFYING VIOLENCE?

The many media reports on the Dawson shooting and its aftermath undoubtedly answered some of the key questions posed by the public: "Who did it and why?", "Who were the victims?", "Of those who survived, how are they doing?", "What is the broader impact on society?"

Indeed, the need to find answers to these questions is essential, says Carleton professor Eileen Saunders of the Arthur Kroeger College of Public Affairs. But Saunders also worries that some all-news TV channels have come

to overstep journalistic boundaries when reporting on violent events.

"Some media outlets tend to amplify violence when they find it because they believe violence sells," says Saunders, who has conducted research on portrayals of violence in the media and its impact on consumers. "The 24-hour news channels face an increasingly competitive media market, which creates a demand for more news to feed an ever-increasing news hole."



Rosemary Barton, MJ/01



Eileen Saunders

Competition among all-news channels became very fierce after the creation of CNN and its U.S. counterparts. American media outlets have since recognized a surefire formula to attract more viewers: cover a violent event and include as many details as possible, critics claim.

"So violent incidents receive blanket coverage and we are surrounded 24/7 by news accounts of every detail. It's almost like they're saying, 'The gorier, the better'," says Saunders.

Saunders points to media coverage of the murder cases of Toronto-based Cecilia Zhang and Holly Jones as examples. In 2004, nine-year-old Zhang was abducted from her home, killed, and found in a wooded area west of the city. In 2003, Jones disappeared from her home. A day later, police recovered her remains off the shores of Toronto

Island. "It's not enough anymore to have a story on a missing child. We're seeing reports on what state they are in when they're found and what was done to them," says Saunders.

PAINTING A PUBLIC PICTURE

David Reevely, MJ/01, maintains that many of the details in a murder case are important to get out into the open so that the public has a full understanding of the incident.

"When someone goes and kills kids in a school, the system has broken down somewhere in a serious way," says the editorial writer and columnist for the *Ottawa Citizen*.

"It's important to try to figure out why it happened. Often the reasons are

spectful as it could have been."

A QUESTION OF PERCEPTION

But others maintain that if the media spend a lot of time covering a particular string of violent incidents, consumers could come away with a false perception of their surroundings. After being bombarded with story after story on violent crime, consumers might be led to believe that violent crime rates are up when they are actually in decline. (Statistics show violent crime in Canada and the U.S. peaked in the mid-1970s and then began a steady decline. Since the early 1990s, it has been relatively flat.)

Due to these potential misperceptions, regular TV viewers of violent

{ There is a great expectation for journalists to deliver reportage that is as clear and accurate as possible. However, there are going to be limitations to how much clarity can be offered... }

in the details. Exactly what happened and how this guy slipped through the cracks, well, that really, really matters. It's not exploitive to examine those questions closely, or to report on a lot of minute details as we try to paint a full picture of what happened. By and large, the news coverage (on Dawson College and other recent Canadian cases) was as re-

crime could be more likely to fear for their own safety, demand legislation that is 'tough on crime', think the top solution to solving crime is to put more police officers on the streets, develop a greater distrust of their neighbours, and lean more toward racial prejudice against minorities and new immigrants, some researchers claim.

"While it is too simplistic to



REALITY TV MEETS THE NEWS

The advent of reality TV put pressure on news networks to satisfy the public's apparent 'taste for reality', boosting the real-time coverage of violent events in the process, suggests José Sánchez, an instructor in Carleton's film studies program.

"(This) evolved into the 'live coverage of the bombing of Baghdad'. From there on in, (TV news) offered the most graphic and 'real' view of the violent world," he says.

Hollywood is also going to give the public what they believe they want to see, he adds.

"If the images offered by TV networks are violent, films are going to push the limit a bit further in order to attract audiences to the theatres. News executives are going to push the envelope of the images shown on newscasts because 'audiences are already getting used to this type of gore'. So you have a vicious circle."

Viewers need to remember: The reality they are being offered is a constructed one, he says. "It's the vision that the cameramen and the producers want us to see and therefore it's highly subjective."



VIOLENCE AND YOUTH

- The Berkeley Media Studies Group set
- out to find out how youth and violence
- are being covered in local news on 26
- stations throughout California. The
- group looked at 214 hours of coverage
- and found the majority of stories that
- involved violence also involved youth (68
- per cent). On the flip side, 53 per cent of
- stories involving youth involved violence.

Source: Nieman Reports, Winter 1998



David Reevely, MJ/01

happens. The very rarity of it makes it news," says Reevely. "And when you read that, it stands out in your mind. Combine it with the young man stabbed to death on the bus a few months ago and the kid who got his iPod stolen, and you might get the idea that Ottawa's buses aren't safe, which wouldn't be fair."

The media report on good things too, such as when bus drivers spot lost children or save the life of a heart-attack victim, Reevely says. But this doesn't tend to stick in most people's minds.

"I think it's human nature to fixate on extremely bad things, especially if they happen more or less randomly and if they could, in theory, happen to you," he says. "I don't know that there's much that journalists can do about that, or should be expected to."

Perhaps one thing that could be done by newspapers, for example, is to provide the necessary context in every crime story, offers Reevely. This could consist of a paragraph near the end about what's happened to the incidence of that crime in town over the past 10 years, whether it's assaults or homicides or arsons.

"Normally, we tend to run crime stories without that context. Instead, we put the context in separate, once-a-year stories when updated statistics come out," he says. "I don't know whether it would make a difference in public perception, but it might be more correct on our part."

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Of course, there is a great expectation for journalists to deliver reportage that is as clear and accurate as possible. However, there are going to be limitations to how much clarity can be offered, particularly in a situation where the story is still unfolding.

At one point during Barton's coverage of the Dawson College shooting, she spotted some police officers down the road with their weapons drawn. While it was not clear at the time what they were doing, Barton later learned they were securing the area around the gunman's car, which was parked near a daycare and full of ammunition. At the time, Barton could only describe what she was seeing.

At another point in the day, media outlets were reporting there were two or three shooters. Barton would call

them "unconfirmed reports."

"That's when things got complicated," she says.

"You have to be so careful," Barton says of reporting on an event when all the facts are not yet known. "You have to stick to what you are sure of, and you must be absolutely clear" on what is fact and what is unconfirmed.

This is essential so as not to create any unnecessary panic, she says, particularly for nearby residents, business owners, and the parents or friends of the victims who may be watching. ■

Scott Foster, MJ/01, is an Ottawa-based freelance writer.



CRIME RATES IN CANADA

The national homicide rate peaked in the mid-1970s at three homicides per 100,000 people. It has generally been dropping since then, reaching a low of 1.7 in 2003. The 2005 rate was two homicides per 100,000. Violent crime among youth was down two per cent in 2006 from the previous year. However, the number of young people accused of homicide rose from 44 in 2004 to 65 in 2005, putting the youth accused homicide rate at its highest point in more than a decade.

Source: The Daily, July 20, 2006, Statistics Canada

STILL CAUSE FOR CONCERN

While Canada's serious violent crime rate may not be rising as many people believe, there is still cause for concern. Canada's violent crime rate is still higher than most comparable countries. While Canada's homicide rate is roughly one-third of that of the U.S., it is higher than that of France, Italy, Ireland, Germany and Switzerland.

Source: Centre of Criminology, University of Toronto, 1999

declare that media depictions of violent crime create a consumer's sense of reality, violent depictions can support the mistaken fear that crime is spiralling out of control," says Aaron Doyle, associate professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and author of *Arresting Images: Crime and Policing in Front of the Television Camera*.

Doyle adds that an additional concern is that TV viewers make sense of crime and their other fears by combining knowledge from the news with that from fictional representations of crime like the TV shows *CSI* and *Law and Order*.

CAUGHT UP IN THE CONTEXT

Reevely insists that journalists engage in perfectly responsible reporting on individual crimes. But some media consumers can run the risk of being misled when it comes to the context, he adds.

"It's a sort of structural problem in the way news is delivered."

He points to a recent news story in Ottawa about three men who got on a bus and, according to the police, started physically attacking other passengers at random until the driver found some police officers to board the bus and arrest them.

"It's a very weird occurrence, given that OC Transpo takes people on millions of trips a year and it hardly ever

A day at the OFFICE

BY BRYAN MULLAN

Punches were coming from all directions. CBC reporter Nahlah Ayed, MJ/97, was bruised and bleeding and the angry mob outside the Khadimiya mosque in Baghdad kept coming at her. A man grabbed her and cocked his gun.

"I thought this is it, this is how I'm going to go. I seriously thought it was over. I was completely alone," says Ayed. "I started to think about how my parents were going to react to the news."

Everything had changed in a heart beat. Just moments before, chants and hymns filled the streets as Ayed walked towards the golden-domed mosque with her cameraman and security crew. It was Ashoura, one of the holiest days for Shiite Muslims; thousands of people crammed the roads on what was supposed to be a day of reflection and renewal. But the beautiful sunny scene was shattered by several massive explosions that created panic and left pools

of blood on the streets of the Iraqi capital.

"We were late. If we had been on time, we would have been right there (in the explosion), which is a scary thought."

As the chaos and mayhem erupted, Ayed was caught in the centre of it all just 500 metres from where one of the bombs went off.

"I was separated from the rest of my crew and grabbed by an armed guy who thought I was involved in the in-

were able to pull a story together for CBC's *The National* that night.

"I'm one of those old-fashioned journalists who doesn't think the story is about us. I really didn't want to talk about what happened to me that day," explains Ayed. "At least 80 people died in that explosion. So the fact that I got a bloody nose and a few bruises doesn't warrant headlines."

The story Ayed put together after the Baghdad mosque explosion was

{ I'm one of those old-fashioned journalists who doesn't think the story is about us. I really didn't want to talk about what happened to me that day. }

cident somehow."

The crowd pulled Ayed's hair and kicked her as they hurled insults in Arabic. Through all of this confusion a blood-soaked man appeared out of nowhere and somehow jostled her free from the gunman.

"I told him I was a journalist. He took my word for it and we ran into a hotel."

The man, whom Ayed refers to as an "angel," barricaded the hotel door to protect her from the teeming melee outside.

"This hotel worker saved my life," says Ayed unequivocally.

One of the local men the CBC had hired as a "fixer" eventually called Ayed and met her at the hotel.

"I was terrified. I have never cried so much in my life."

As bad as her ordeal was, Ayed says her cameraman had it much worse. Despite their near-death experience, Ayed and her team

nominated for a Gemini Award for Best Reportage.

Ayed knows what makes a good headline. Prior to joining CBC News she worked at Canadian Press (CP) in Ottawa for five years. The Winnipeg native got the job as a weekend reporter with CP after completing her masters of journalism at Carleton.

"I'm proud of my training at Carleton. It was an incredible place to learn about the basics of journalism," says Ayed.

While at CP she won several awards for her print work, including a citation for the Michener Award for a series on living conditions in Canada's prisons.

She joined CBC Television in 2002 as the Amman correspondent, but immediately travelled to Iraq to cover the lead-up to the war. Ayed says she has to take calculated risks to do her job, but she stresses no story is worth losing your life for.

"During the war in Iraq, we drove in from Amman all the way to Baghdad. It was a crazy, crazy trip," says Ayed.

After getting past Fallujah, her convoy met the first U.S. Army check-





Nahlah Ayed, MJ/97, at the border of Syria and Iraq in 2005.

point. Ayed's group decided it would be best if the three female journalists approached the check-point on foot. Ayed volunteered to be the flag bearer.

"We stopped the convoy about a kilometre away. I was carrying a huge white flag with T.V. written on it. The soldiers were nervous. And they eventually let us spend the night in their compound."

Throughout the evening Ayed could hear bombs falling. She eventually made it to the Iraqi capital to witness the toppling of Saddam Hussein's regime. Ayed has since been back to the troubled country several times to cover the aftermath of the U.S.-led invasion. She has been based in Beirut for nearly three years now.

Whether it is in Baghdad or in Beirut, she says there is a sad reality to the religious violence that permeates the region. "These are the same people

who just have different religions. Iraq is full of mixed couples who are Sunni and Shia. In Lebanon (inter-marriage) is even more prevalent. Somehow because of the religion you are born into, you have to end up hating someone because they have a different religion, even though they have the same blood running through their veins."

She wants to continue covering the Middle East for the near future, but she would also like to eventually work in other countries such as China or India.



Ayed in Bint Jbeil, in southern Lebanon, right after the ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah.

"It's nice to speak the language and to get to know the place, but I would like to try something entirely different where I have to start from scratch and learn a new language." ■

Bryan Mullan, BJ/00, is a field producer with Global News in Toronto.

Making corrections

BY ERIN SWEET

As the current commissioner of Correctional Service Canada (CSC), Keith Coulter, PhD/95, is responsible for the smooth operation of 58 federal prisons in Canada. There are roughly 12,700 inmates in these institutions, and another 6,800 federal offenders who are residing in Canadian communities under CSC's parole supervision.

So keeping things running smoothly is a tall order for Coulter, especially given the changing profile of offenders in the correctional services system.

"The offender population coming through our doors is more complex, and more difficult to manage," says Coulter.

Statistics show the current population in institutions is characterized by inmates having more extensive histories of vio-

"The offender population coming through our doors is more complex, and more difficult to manage," says Coulter.

lence, more affiliations with gangs and organized crime, more substance abuse problems and more mental health disorders than in the past. In recent years, nine out of ten offenders have previous convictions, while one in six men and one in ten women offenders have known affiliations with gangs and organized crime. There has also been a 14 per cent increase in the number of offenders serving time for homicides. Adding to the complex-

ity of the situation is the fact that 80 per cent of offenders have serious substance abuse problems. Further yet, there is an increasing over-representation of Aboriginal offenders within CSC's institutions. Nineteen per cent of the institutional population is of Aboriginal ancestry, while less than three per cent of the entire Canadian population is Aboriginal, says Coulter.

According to Coulter, keeping reasonably safe and secure institutions in the current environment is a

priority — keeping turbulence and turmoil to a minimum is also a prerequisite to help change the behaviours of people who have committed offences. There are scanners and other technological devices in institutions to detect drugs and weapons, and in some workplaces, stab-proof vests are available for correctional officers because of the proliferation of homemade weapons. CSC also has intelligence officers in its institutions, and staff involved in dynamic security, which involves interacting with inmates to anticipate violent or other unacceptable behaviour before it happens. The service also has specialized training for staff to deal with the rise in the number of offenders with mental health problems.

"It's also about keeping the right population together and apart and isolating the most problematic," says Coulter.

Programs offered to inmates to help correct behaviours that led to criminal offences include anger management courses, family violence courses and substance abuse programs. To provide more effective corrections for First Nations, Métis and Inuit offenders, CSC operates healing lodges and involves Aboriginal elders and Aboriginal communities in helping offenders journey on a path to becoming law abiding citizens.

Coulter describes the safe transition of offenders back into the community as a critical part of the correctional business. The chance of recidivism is greatly reduced if offenders have a job, a place to go and a support system in place upon release. The reality, however, is that the level of community support offered varies in different parts of the country, says Coulter.

"Without a strong support system, they will slip back in their old circles and old patterns of behaviour, which will result in doing more time and negative public safety consequences," says Coulter. "Our job is fundamentally about public safety."

As a former fighter pilot and a flying instructor with the Canadian Forces, Coulter brings nerves of steel to his position, as well as four degrees including a PhD in political science from Carleton. "I'm a life-long learner, and my learning experience at Carleton was a significant one." ■

Erin Sweet, BJ/98, MJ/00, is a communications advisor with Human Resources and Social Development Canada in Ottawa.



Ravens Feats

BY DAVE KENT

TEAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The men's basketball team, under the leadership of head coach Dave Smart and players Osvaldo Jeanty and Aaron Doornekamp, won its fifth straight CIS men's basketball national championship. The team finished the OUA season and CIS post season with a 24-4 record — a season capped by defeating Brandon University in the "Final 8" championship game thriller by a score of 52-49.

The men's Nordic ski team won the program's third CCUNC/CIS national championship. Under the leadership of head coach John Langstone and the brilliant performance of Gavin Hamilton, Carleton won the national title by 147 points over second-place Lakehead University.

The women's water polo team won the program's fifth OUA title in the past 20 years. Under the leadership of head coach Steve Baird, and with the brilliant play of Rachel Baxter and rookie goalkeeper Laura Catana, Carleton defeated the two-time defending champion, McMaster, 5-4 in the final.

INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Rachel Baxter - women's water polo

With 29 regular-season goals, the third-year veteran led the OUA in scoring and was named an OUA all-star and the most valuable player. Baxter's five post-season goals helped the program capture its fifth OUA championship and



she was named the most valuable player of the championship. As recipient of the Ruth Coe Memorial Award, Baxter is recognized as Carleton's Female Athlete of the Year.

Valerie Charbonneau - women's hockey

The second-year goaltender had a record-setting 540 saves during the QSSF season. In 2006-07 the Sudbury, ON, native recorded the program's first five league victories and helped the team earn a post-season berth. This team was regarded as the most improved program in CIS women's ice hockey for 2006-07.

Aaron Doornekamp - men's basketball

Doornekamp earned a nod as a first-team OUA all-star and was instrumental in leading the Ravens to their fifth-straight CIS men's basketball "Final 8" national championship. Doornekamp was named the most valuable player of both the "Final 8" championship game and the entire tournament.

Rachel Devenport - women's field hockey

Devenport led the Ravens in scoring and was named an OUA all-star for the third consecutive year. Devenport, an academic all-Canadian, was selected as Carleton University's OUA Women of Influence, for combining excellence in the classroom and on the field.

Gavin Hamilton - men's Nordic ski

Hamilton helped lead the Nordic ski program to the 2007 CCUNC/CIS national championship, and was named the CCUNC/CIS Male Skier of the Year. The St. Catharines, ON native also helped the Ravens earn the OUA silver medal. Hamilton was selected as co-recipient of Carleton University's Male Athlete of Year award with Osvaldo Jeanty (basketball).

Osvaldo Jeanty - men's basketball

Jeanty became only the sixth student athlete in CIS history to win five national titles in a five-year career. Jeanty's honours in 2006-07 include: being named the most valuable player of OUA East and OUA; being named first team all-Canadian; receiving the Mike Moser Award as outstanding men's basketball player for a second straight year; being selected as a co-recipient of Carleton University's Male Athlete of the Year award with Gavin Hamilton (Nordic ski); and being awarded the Jack Vogan Memorial Medal as Carleton's Graduating Male Athlete of the Year.

Angela Penfound - women's soccer

The fourth-year goalkeeper broke Carleton's single season records for league wins (11) and shutouts (7). The Bowmanville, ON, native also shattered the Ravens women's soccer re-



cord books by recording career highs in wins (24) and shutouts (19). Penfound was named an OUA East all-star for the second straight year.

Ben Riley - men's fencing

Riley, the recipient of the Schwend-Tully trophy as OUA Male Sabre Fencer of the Year, led the Ravens to the 2007 overall sabre gold medal at the OUA championships. Riley won the 2007 OUA individual gold medal in sabre and was named an OUA all-star.

Linnea Rudachyk - women's Nordic ski

Rudachyk led the women's Nordic ski team to the CCUNC/CIS national championship bronze medal and the 2007 OUA women's Nordic ski bronze medal. She was named an OUA all-star and earned a bronze medal in both the OUA and CIS relay races. Rudachyk was named Carleton's Graduating Female Athlete of the Year.

Karl Wasslen - men's soccer

The rookie goalkeeper set an OUA record by going undefeated in his first nine starts. The Ottawa native posted six victories and three ties in those nine starts and recorded the league's best goals against average at 0.22. He set an OUA rookie record with seven shutouts in 2006-07. Wasslen was named to the OUA East first team all-stars.

Par for the course

Corporate partners of Carleton University will once again tee off in support of student athletes at the second annual President's Golf Tournament on Monday, August 27.

The tournament was initiated last year as a way to raise funds for athletic scholarships. For a sponsorship fee of \$5,000 per foursome, 36 corporate partners and suppliers played in an 18-hole tournament at Stonebridge Golf and Country Club, then returned to the Ravens' Nest on campus for a special wrap-up dinner with student athletes.

A significant portion of each sponsorship fee went directly to student aid. In fact,

the first tournament raised an outstanding \$141,226 — two thirds of that total went directly to 71 student athletes in the form of scholarship awards, and the remainder was matched with proceeds from the E. Bower Carty Endowment Fund, adding \$96,032 to the permanent Ravens Fund endowment for future student athletes.

"It was a phenomenal success," says Ed Kane, assistant vice-president, University Services, and chair of the 2007 tournament planning committee, "and a great first step towards the university's goal of raising \$1 million over 10 years."

BY RYAN DAVIES

This year, most sponsors have renewed their participation, including title sponsor Sodexho and hospitality sponsor Aramark. In addition, 10 sponsors — including the Carleton University Alumni Association — have made a five-year commitment to the tournament by signing up as "founding sponsors."

"We're very encouraged by the enthusiasm our corporate partners have shown for this cause," says Kane. "Student athletes are a hard-working and dedicated group, and our partners are helping us provide them with an extra level of support."



Making a different world

BY KRIS FOSTER

Making a difference in the world has always been a running theme in Donald Yeomans' life – whether as a husband, a father, the commissioner of Correctional Service Canada (CSC) or as a member of Carleton University's Board of Governors. And even after 27 years of service to Carleton in various roles on the board and on committees, Yeomans is still finding a way to make a difference in people's lives with the Donald R. Yeomans Bursary.

The bursary was established by the friends and family of Yeomans to recognize his outstanding contribution to Carleton University. "That the bursary is in my name is much appreciated, and it's very flattering," says Yeomans. "But what is really important is the bursary, not me."

The bursary fund currently totals \$550,000 which includes: the initial donation by family and friends of \$250,000; matching funds of \$250,000 from the Ontario Trust for Student Support program; and matching funds of \$50,000 from Carleton University. It will provide four years of undergraduate tuition to one student per year – a student who would not otherwise be able to attend Carleton because of financial reasons. "This bursary is important because it is an investment in promising young Canadians," says Yeomans. "Making a university education available to a talented young person who might be excluded from this experience for economic reasons is what's really important."

Beyond being awarded to an individual based on financial need, the potential recipient needs to meet a number of other criteria: academic promise, community leadership, and active participation in school and community service. "We want a high-potential individual who is well rounded, not someone who is just academically brilliant," explains Yeomans. "We want someone who succeeded in school, but also someone who is heavily involved in school and community service. This individual has the potential to make a contribution to Canada in a number of ways."

MAKING A CONTRIBUTION

Yeomans graduated from the University of Toronto in 1947, earning a bachelor of applied science degree – and from graduation until 1962, he worked in the private sector. Yeomans then launched into a career in public service – a career that included such positions as assistant deputy minister in a number of departments, commissioner of CSC and chairman of the Tariff Board.

In 1993, after more than 30 years in public service, Yeomans retired. Looking back, Yeomans recalls his proudest contribution. "Throughout my career I was involved more often than I realized in the advancement of women. It is a different world today. It was quite innovative for a woman to take over as a warden in a penitentiary – that's something that happened during my time as commissioner of Corrections."

MAKING A DIFFERENCE ON CAMPUS

During his career, Yeomans still found time to volunteer and make a difference on Carleton's campus. In 1980 Yeomans joined Carleton's board and served for 13 years in numerous positions – including two years as chair from 1989 to 1991. "I thought Carleton was a very important place," says Yeomans. "It is very important for Ottawa and very important to Canada. I felt I could make a contribution on the board."

Even after his retirement from the board, Yeomans maintained roles on numerous committees – he chaired the audit, finance and nominating committees, and served on the university's building program, personnel and university relations committees.

"I was involved with Carleton for close to three decades – during that time I saw the university become more corporately structured and managed much more professionally," recalls Yeomans. "Carleton University went through some very tough financial years and an important contribution of the board was to provide counsel, guidance and support to the president when making tough decisions – I think we did that."

For all his effort, leadership and commitment, Yeomans was awarded the university's highest non-academic honour in 2000, the Founders Award. "It was a great honour to receive the Founders Award in 2000. It was a great surprise, too. I had no inclination that I was even being considered," says Yeomans. "I was flattered and pleased to be recognized."

THE INFLUENCE OF THE WORLD

Yeomans points to his parents and his wife, Catharine, as his influences. Beyond his personal life, Yeomans is quick to add that the professional world also offered him a lot of influences. "Sometimes you work with people that make you say: 'I'll never do that', or 'I'll never be that kind of person'. I've been in those situations, but I was also lucky in my career that I had a number of extremely positive influences too."

That's why Yeomans views education as so important. It gives you a chance "to be associated with people who think more broadly – people who are going places in the world."

The bursary's goal is "to try to make a difference in the world, one person at a time." That this bursary is going to give more people a chance to attend university is more than Yeomans could hope for. "People in university are at the beginning of interesting, maybe even great and exciting, careers – you are moulded in many ways by the people you associate with. To me, that's what's great about university – you are part of a group of people who are going places."

Thanks to Yeomans, there are more people going places than ever before. ■



Campus safety net

BY DENNIS YORK

Carleton has changed a lot since Len Boudreault retired from the RCMP and became Carleton University's crime prevention officer in 1993. Back then, there were fewer buildings and fewer students, and crime prevention was much less high tech than it is today.

Five years ago, Boudreault became director of Carleton's Department of University Safety and responsible for Environmental Health and Safety, Parking Services and Patrol Services. Boudreault says it's a much bigger job and some of the concerns have changed over the years. "There are over 45 buildings. There's a floating population. The faculty, staff, students and public that come and go from the campus on a workday add up to about 35,000 people."

While Carleton certainly can't be said to have a crime problem, the number of reported incidents has steadily increased over the years, partly because there are more people coming to Carleton. "We had over 40,000 calls for service last year," says Boudreault. "Of that, it's probably safe to say that somewhere between 250 and 300 occurrences would be city police occurrences," which are those where the Ottawa police are asked to provide assistance.

Boudreault says the number and types of incidents reported to his department probably don't provide a true picture of campus crime because there are always some incidents that are not reported, are falsely reported or are reported to other agencies or departments. Still, last year's 40,000 calls to the Department of University Safety does sound daunting.

A lot of people come and go from Carleton, but the university campus is private property. That means people can be asked to leave or be charged with trespassing if they don't have a legitimate reason for being on campus. In order to maintain security at Carleton, Campus Security monitors the campus day and night, all year round. Patrol Services has 18 uniformed patrol officers, four managers,

While Carleton certainly can't be said to have a crime problem, the number of reported incidents has steadily increased over the years, partly because there are more people coming to Carleton.

a community liaison officer and an operations manager. There are four patrol teams, with each team usually including three patrol officers, a shift manager and a dispatcher, who is responsible for taking calls made to the Carleton emergency 4444 number. The dispatcher is also able to monitor any calls made from Carleton to the city's 911 number — allowing Patrol Services to be aware of incidents that are reported directly to 911, rather than to campus security.

There are two types of campus safety officers employed in Patrol Services: designated and non-designated. The ma-

jority of the safety patrol officers are designated officers, which means they are fully accredited special constables. The designated officers have all the rights of a peace officer and can make arrests based on reasonable and probable grounds. The non-designated safety patrol officers are all in training to become special constables and must achieve this status in about a year's time.

All campus safety officers have handcuffs, collapsible batons and protective vests. The special constables receive considerable in-house training at Carleton and use-of-force training through the Ottawa Police that must be recertified every year.

The Department of University Safety also trains and oversees the Student Safety Patrol, which is made up of about 50 student members. The students hired for this position undergo 40 hours of training in conflict resolution, the criminal code, CPR and using automated external defibrillators. They are also given training in use-of-force, but they are told to call Patrol Services rather than get involved in confrontations. They are only authorized to issue parking tickets and must call for support if anything more is needed.

Boudreault says Carleton is well monitored electronically with alarms of various types and about 60 wireless cameras, 20 of which are monitored live and the rest of which make recordings.

Carleton's location also helps keep the campus secure. The university is outside the city core, and it has the Rideau River and the Rideau Canal surrounding much of the campus, which means there are fewer visitors and it is easier to monitor those coming onto the campus.

Boudreault says having younger students coming to Carleton and dealing with people from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds can be a challenge. But they are adapting. For example, the Department of University Safety is taking an inventory of the languages spoken by staff to determine its language resources. So far, 20 languages spoken among the department's staff have been counted, showing that they are as diverse as the community itself.

The department is even doing geographical profiling of criminal incidents at Carleton to determine where most of them occur. "We looked at the years 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006, geographically profiling theft, which is the biggest issue on any campus," says Boudreault, "and we found that consistently the theft hot spots on campus were the library and the athletics facilities."

You can find out more about the Department of University Safety at carleton.ca/safety. ■

Dennis York, BAHons/73, is a writer and editor with SimplyWrite Communications and teaches part-time at Algonquin College.





The Usual Suspects

BY KRIS FOSTER

As kids we played cops and robbers. The bad guys stole a flag and the good guys chased in hot pursuit — that, typically, was the extent of the game. Had members of Carleton University's forensic psychology team been playing, it would have looked a lot different — and no one would want to play on the side of the robbers. Specialized police training and psychologically-based investigative techniques would be parts of the game — as would research into the accuracy of eyewitness accounts. Further yet, the game would also involve psychological profiling, proximal risk assessment, determination of psychopathy, geographical profiling, examination of sexual violence, correctional decision making and rehabilitation.

Obviously, bringing the schoolyard game into the classroom makes it infinitely more complex; however, forensic psychology can be simply described as applying psychological expertise to the justice system. It is also one of the fastest growing areas in psychology — leading some to dismiss it as a trendy area of study, a *CSI*-type fad.

"I'm sure part of the fascination with forensics is due to television. There are a lot of shows on now that highlight the topic and show how all the players fit in," says Joanna Pozzulo, associate professor in the Department of Psychology and the director of the Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

But the truth is, as one of only two schools in Canada that has a forensic psychology subgroup (the other be-

ing Simon Fraser University), Carleton offers a unique opportunity to those interested in the field. "The very fact that you can find six people in the same department examining different aspects of criminal justice is truly remarkable," says Pozzulo. "We provide breadth and depth in an area that students are drawn to. I think each one of us brings strengths that complement the rest of the group."

POLICING PROCEDURES

Craig Bennell

Associate professor, Department of Psychology and the Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice; Director of the Police Research Laboratory

"My own interest in the area was sparked by movies and the popular

books written by ex-FBI profilers," admits Bennell. The initial spark of curiosity led him into the field, and as he got deeper into studies at the University of Alberta and the University of Liverpool, he saw an area not often researched.

"Most violence-related research in the field of forensic psychology has attempted to understand violence and criminality and come up with explanations for why it emerges," explains Bennell. "Relatively little research looked at how the police should respond to such violence. This is where my research fits — it attempts to draw on research about violence and criminality, but with the sole purpose of informing police practice."

There are two areas of particular interest to Bennell and his team at the Police Research Laboratory. One stream of research looks at the use and misuse of psychologically-based investigative techniques — such as criminal profiling, geographic profiling and the methods used to link serial crimes. "The general focus here is on determining whether the various methods that are currently used to carry out these tasks are reliable, valid and useful," explains Bennell.

The second area of interest looks at how police training can be improved by developing new methods of learning. "The focus is on developing training procedures that facilitate long-term learning that transfers to naturalistic settings to help police officers perform their duties more efficiently and effectively."

"I find it appealing that our research has the potential to change how the police do things. Over the long term, our research aims to benefit the police, by improving their ability to solve complex crimes and make better decisions — as a result we will hopefully see increased public safety," says Bennell.

CAN I GET A WITNESS?

Joanna Pozzulo

*Associate professor, Department of Psychology;
Director of the Institute of Criminology and
Criminal Justice*

Pozzulo heard about a study that examined how the phrasing of a simple question could influence responses

and she was hooked. "If you ask an eyewitness 'How fast was the car going when it smashed into the other car?', the witness will report a much higher rate of speed than if you ask 'How fast was the car going when it bumped into the other car?'," explains Pozzulo. "I was fascinated by how memory and reporting witnessed events could be so pliable."

Recognizing that a great deal of attention was on the offenders, Pozzulo switched gears. "I became interested in the victim, the witness — the people who experience the violence, not the people who commit the violence," she says.

The main focus of her research is on the social and cognitive processes child and adult eyewitness experience — what the victims go through when

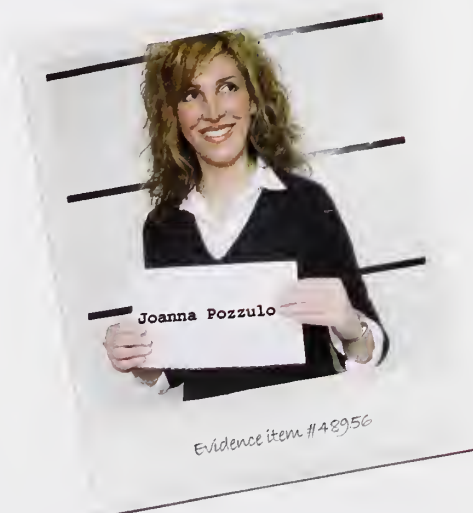
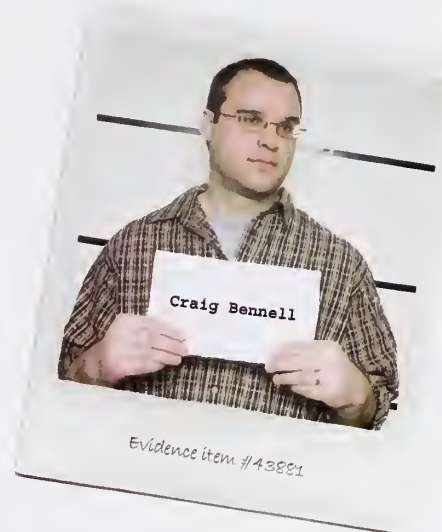
{ As one of only two schools in Canada that has a forensic psychology subgroup, Carleton offers a unique opportunity to those interested in the field. }

recalling events and identifying those involved in the crime. "My goal is to develop police procedures that will maximize the accuracy of eyewitness evidence for child and adult eyewitnesses and ensure that they don't experience any additional trauma in the process."

A recent study Pozzulo conducted examined how a change in appearance can affect the accuracy of eyewitness accounts. The study found that 65 per cent of adult and 48 per cent of child eyewitnesses correctly identified the accused when there was no change in appearance. Those numbers dropped dramatically to 22 per cent and 16 per cent respectively, when the accused sported a new hairstyle.

"Witnesses can make mistakes for a lot of reasons," says Pozzulo. She adds that incorrect accounts may be a leading cause of wrongful convictions. "However, we know that there are a lot of factors that can be controlled by the justice system, like interview protocols and lineup identification procedures. These can have just as much effect, if not more, than the factors we have no control over."

Eyewitness accounts have been researched and studied for more than 100



years and Pozzulo hopes the knowledge coming from current research will improve the process even more. "Ideally, we develop procedures and techniques so that we catch all of the guilty and never imprison the innocent."

DISSECTING A PSYCHOPATH

Adelle Forth

Associate professor, Department of Psychology
and the Institute of Criminology and Criminal
Justice

We all figure we know a few psychopaths. But few know them as well as Forth, who studies the who-what-why of psychopathy. "People are innately interested in why people engage in deviant acts," says Forth. "At dinner parties when others find out I study psychopaths they are always keen to hear more about the topic. Often they start talking about when they were victims of a psychopath."



Evidence item #46228



Evidence item #42371

Forth says the line of distinction between a "normal" person and a psychopath is not as clear as we might think. "The personality traits that exist in psychopaths are not distinct from personality traits seen in other people," says Forth. "Psychopathy is most commonly defined as a personality disorder. Psychopaths are typically characterized by traits such as grandiosity, risk-taking, superficial charm, lack of remorse, callousness, impulsivity, irresponsibility, failure to accept responsibility, and antisocial behaviours."

Sound like anyone you know?

"What distinguishes the psychopath is the constellation of interpersonal, affective and behavioural traits and the severity of these traits in the individual," explains Forth. "Psychopaths are very intriguing individuals — the more you study these people the more questions arise."

For instance, is it genetic? "There are some ties between genetic predisposition and the development of psychopathy, but that does not mean environmental influences are not important," explains Forth.

What about the parents: can we blame them? "I have also done work assessing the family background of youths with psychopathic traits. These youths came from all types of family background and a poor family background (maltreatment, poor parenting) did not explain the development of psychopathy."

What is clear is that this is an important area of research. "Psychopaths make up a relatively small portion of those in custody, but they are responsible for a disproportionate amount of the crime and violence," says Forth. "Psychopathic offenders begin their criminal career early in life and continue to engage in criminal activities throughout much of their lifespan. They are at a higher risk for violent re-offending."

Forth's research indicates that adult psychopaths are highly resistant to current methods of treatment. "More promising results have recently been found with adolescents with psychopathic features," says Forth. "I'm optimistic that with additional research we will be able to develop intervention strategies that will be more successful with adults, too."

LET'S TALK ABOUT SEXES

Shelley Brown

Assistant professor, Department of Psychology
and the Institute of Criminology and Criminal
Justice

"Men commit more crime, particularly more violent crime, than women. This finding persists regardless of time, culture, research methodology or disciplinary orientation," states Brown. But what intrigued Brown more than these universal findings was how little was known about female crime.

"Relative to male crime, very little is known about female crime in terms of causes, prediction, prevention and treatment," explains Brown. "It's exciting to be part of a new area of research that is full of unanswered questions."

With her research, Brown hopes to help fill in the gaps of knowledge about crime and violence in an often neglected sub-group of offenders. "This group is neglected in theory and practice," says Brown. "My research focuses on developing gender-responsive risk assessment tools for girls and women. As well, it will contribute to the development of female theories of crime as well as gender-responsive programming for girls and women in conflict with the law."

The research to date has determined that women's violence is more relational in nature — it is committed against someone they know, a family member or an intimate partner, for example. "A recent large scale American study revealed that 60 per cent of female-perpetrated homicide was committed against a family member, while only 20 per cent of male-perpetrated homicide was committed against a family member. In contrast, female homicide offenders were substantially less likely to have murdered a stranger compared to their male counterparts," explains Brown.

She is quick to point out that no one factor can explain violent behaviour in either sex. "The strongest explanations of violent behaviour are grounded in multidisciplinary perspectives that incorporate the interaction of biological, psychological, familial and sociological factors," she says. While gender-focused research is still in its infancy, the field has made impressive gains in the last decade.

"The applied nature of the research will guide gender-responsive services

that are delivered institutionally and in the community," says Brown. "This will help create safer communities and help girls and women in conflict with the law lead healthier and more productive lives."

ACCOUNTS OF SEX OFFENDERS

Kevin Nunes

Assistant professor, Department of Psychology and the Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice

"It goes without saying that sexual offences are particularly disturbing," says Nunes. "So the possibility of reducing sexual victimization appealed to me." Nunes explains that understanding what causes sexual offending is the first step toward reducing its occurrence. With that in mind he asks one very important question: Why do some people sexually assault children and adults?

"Trying to answer this question usually involves comparing sex offenders to people who have not committed sex offences to see how they differ," explains Nunes. "Most of my work in this area focuses on attitudes, beliefs and values that may be related to sexual offending."

The differences between sex offenders and non-sex offenders are numerous. Nunes is quick to point out, however, that whether these differences actually cause the offending is not clear.

"Child sexual abusers generally show more arousal to children than non-offenders. Similarly, rapists often show more arousal to rape than non-offenders," explains Nunes. "Sex offenders are more likely to have been sexually abused as children. Child sexual abusers are generally lacking in social competence compared to non-sex offenders and usually endorse attitudes supportive of sexual offending more so than non-sex offenders."

Beyond understanding the sex offenders, Nunes also examines predictors of sexual recidivism and the effectiveness of treatment. According to Nunes there are two main predictors of sexual re-offence: deviant sexual interests (e.g., many prior sex offences, sexual arousal to children); and general antisocial characteristics (e.g., psychopathy, antisocial personality disorder, impulsivity). "Most sex offender risk assessment instruments tap these two components," he says.

As far as treatment goes, the evi-

dence suggests it can be effective at reducing sexual re-offending. "This research typically has many unavoidable weaknesses, leaving it open to at least two interpretations: treatment is effective but better research is necessary to convincingly demonstrate it; or treatment as typically delivered is ineffective," explains Nunes. "As far as we know, most sex offenders do not re-offend after being convicted for their initial offence."

PUBLIC ENEMY

Ralph Serin

Assistant professor, Department of Psychology and the Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice

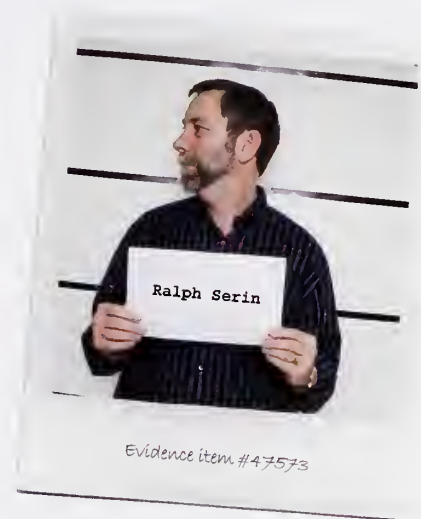
Recent census data tell us that close to 10 per cent of Canadians have been formally involved with the justice system. "Including juveniles, there are 2.6 million men and 0.7 million women who have involvement in crime during their lifetime. That's 10 per cent of Canada's population," says Serin. He is quick to point out "that the majority of convictions are for non-violent crimes, only about 10 per cent of all convictions are for sexual or violent crimes."

Serin explains that the actual number of people affected is higher. Consider this: if each perpetrator and victim had a significant person in their life who was also affected by these events (crime or victim), then a significant proportion of Canadians are personally affected by crime.

"In 1999 there were an estimated 8.3 million victimization incidents – that means over 30 per cent of the Canadian population is affected by crime or violence," explains Serin.

Serin joined Carleton in 2003 after a career in correctional service. Because of his background, Serin was painfully aware of the importance of decision making in the criminal justice system as well as the need for accurate assessment and management of the offenders throughout the justice system. Criminal justice decision making and correctional psychology (correctional programming and offender rehabilitation) have been his main areas of expertise since graduating from Queen's University in 1988.

"My work attempts to provide a context for understanding criminal violence and the decisions made regarding the release and supervision



of offenders," says Serin. "It's such an important area of study given the prevalence of criminal behaviour and ongoing public concern."

"For some time Canada's correctional service has been the envy of western countries. It continues to provide expertise to assist other countries and agencies. But the challenge to improve is constant," says Serin. "In Canada the costs of provincial and federal corrections are about \$2.8 billion (not including police/courts) or only one per cent of the federal budget. So, funding is an important issue as well."

Serin hopes his work will shed some light on a social concern and bring the issues to the public eye. "To assist the public to understand that criminal behaviour affects many and that there are no simple solutions to complex issues is what I hope my research changes." ■

Class Acts

30 CLASS NOTES 30 ALUMNI NEWS 35 ALUMNI CALENDAR
35 ALUMNI EVENTS 36 EX LIBRIS

20 years filled with reason to celebrate

BY KRIS FOSTER

On February 7, 2007, Carleton University's Attendant Services Program celebrated 20 years of service – more precisely the program celebrated 24/7/20, that's 24 hours per day, seven days a week, for 20 years. With the exception of two weeks during Christmas break, the program offers around-the-clock services to students with physical disabilities.

THE PROGRAM

"We provide personal care to the students with disabilities who live in residence," says Deborah Coghlin, team leader, Attendant Services Program. "We assist these students with activities of daily living such as getting meals, and getting into and out of bed, getting ready to go to school."

The program, managed by the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities, is a recognized leader for the level of service it provides. The

Attendant Services Program receives about 1,000 calls for assistance per month and responds to each of these calls within 10 minutes — allowing students with disabilities to live and study on campus. Because of this level of service, the program is a model for similar programs at other universities across Canada and around the world. Although Carleton's program has been around for two decades, no other school has been able to replicate its success, so it continues to draw students to Ottawa.

Matthew Cole, director of the Attendant Services Program, says it now receives international attention. "We are attracting students from not only across Canada, but also around the world."

In April the program welcomed a student from Tokyo, who travelled to Carleton specifically to learn about the program — he hopes to enrol at

Carleton and live on campus beginning next summer.

"I am inspired by the diversity of our campus. I get to meet some of the most amazing students, who put so much into getting their education," says Coghlin. "With help from our program they are able to accomplish anything they want. Since working here I have helped students with disabilities become doctors, lawyers and even a few government workers!"

THE CELEBRATION

After 20 years of helping students with disabilities lead independent lives on campus, the program certainly merited a celebration.

"Carleton's Attendant Services is one of the most innovative programs of its kind, and we wanted to give it some profile," says Larry McCloskey, director of the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities, about the celebration.

CLASS NOTES

1950s

Grete Hale, BJ/54, received the Order of Canada on December 15, 2006.

1960s

Ted Hannah, BA/65, MA/67, retired from Memorial University of Newfoundland on August 31, 2006. Following retirement he returned to his native B.C. and continues to enjoy teaching undergraduates as an honorary professor at UBC.

Lyne Pearson, BJ/67, was named dean emerita at the University of Saskatchewan.

Konrad von Finckenstein, BAHons/67, former commissioner of the Competition Bureau, has been named chair of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission.

1970s

Allan Miller, BSc/71, was appointed as vice-president of exploration of UraVan Minerals Inc.

David Carpenter, BSc/72, BScHons/73, a medical officer in the Canadian Navy, has served in many overseas deployments and is currently posted in Washington, D.C. as medical attaché CDLS(W) at the Canadian Embassy.

Joseph Lloyd-Jones, MA/74, has been appointed public member adjudicator discipline and appeals committees of the Real Estate Council of Ontario (RECO). RECO is responsible for regulating the activities of real estate brokerages and brokers and trading in real estate in Ontario.



William de Laat, BA/76, recently retired from his position as counselor at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C. He continues to work as an independent consultant advising on cross-border and international security issues. In April 2006 he married Donna Welch. The couple resides in Virginia.

William de Laat, BA/76, recently retired from his position as counselor at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C. He continues to work as an independent consultant advising on cross-border and international security issues. In April 2006 he married Donna Welch. The couple resides in Virginia.

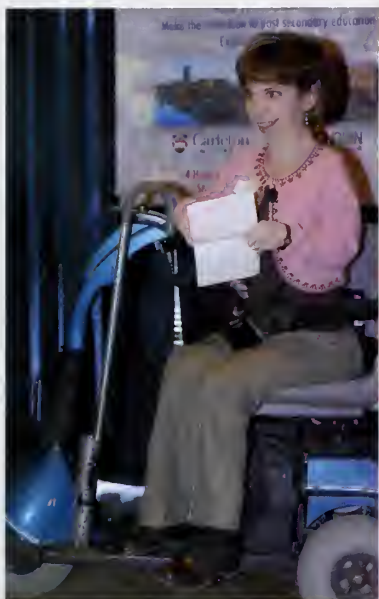
Deborah M. Duffy, BAHons/76, after a successful career as in-house counsel, obtained a horticulture technician diploma from Algonquin College in 2006 and opened her own landscape design business. She can be reached at deborahduffy@rogers.com.



Alex Mattice, BCom/77, was recently appointed chairman of the AC Group of chartered accountancy firms. The AC Group is the largest association of chartered accountancy firms in Atlantic Canada.

Patrick Monahan, MA/77, was appointed to the board of directors of Novelis Inc. as an independent director.

Chris Dornan, BJ/78, has been named the new director of the Arthur Kroeger College of Public Affairs and an associate dean in the Faculty of Public Affairs at Carleton University. He takes over the positions on July 1, 2007.



Current clients of the Attendant Services Program at the 20th anniversary celebration.

Tamra Ricci, MA/92, (pictured right) was a guest speaker at the 20th anniversary celebration.

Ricci, a graduate of Carleton and recently named one of Ottawa's Top 40 Under 40, credits the Attendant Services Program with providing her the opportunity to pursue her education.

More than 150 students, alumni, faculty and staff joined the festivities at Baker's Grille in the University Centre to honour the program. Former students and staff members travelled from as far away as Kingston, Toronto and London, ON, to acknowledge the program's role in their university lives and to renew old acquaintances.

Three awards were handed out on this special evening. McCloskey recognized David Sterritt, the director of Housing and Food Services, for "his continued dedication to students with

disabilities." McCloskey also presented an award to Cole for his leadership in managing the program since 1992. McCloskey highlighted many of the program's achievements under Cole, including the expansion to Algonquin College in 2001. Carleton was the first university in North America to offer 24-hour attendant services on campus and Algonquin was the first college to do the same. Cole has skillfully managed both in challenging circumstances. Last but not least, Cole presented the third award of the evening to Coghlin,

"for her dedication to students while on and off duty and her tireless volunteer work in the community."

Tim Rose, a third-year law and human rights student, and client of the program, who has cerebral palsy, says that the program is why he can pursue an education at Carleton. "It's like a glowing beacon of hope. I'm not trying to be cheesy, but it really is the best thing," he says. ■

For more information visit carleton.ca/pmc/attendant.

Harley Kempthorne, MEng/78, was appointed vice-president, engineering, responsible for reservoir development and acquisitions at Gentry.

Drew Love, BA/78, MA/84, was appointed director of athletics at McGill University. Love spent the last 26 years in various positions at Carleton University, the last 11 as director of Recreation & Athletics.

Claudia Clarke, BA/79, has joined Human Resource Systems Group (HRSG) as a senior human resources consultant. Clarke has over 20 years experience in systems, management and human resources consulting.

1980s

Susan Cardinal, BJ/80, says her "one and only radio doc of the past decade", *Inventing Frobisher*, aired in January on CBC radio's two English-language networks.

Robert Kloppenburg, BA/80, joins Synta Pharmaceuticals Corp. as vice-president, investor relations and corporate communication.



Alan Shefman, MA/80, was re-elected in November 2006, to a second term as a city councillor of Vaughan, ON. Alan lives in Vaughan with his family and can be reached at alan.shefman@vaughan.ca

David Estok, MJ/82, has been appointed editor-in-chief of the *Hamilton Spectator*.

John A. McMunagle, BA/82, recently received the second highest honour from the Ontario Bar Association, the Linda Adlam Manning Award for Volunteerism for 2007. He continues to practice criminal defence and still happily married to **Anne Clark-McMunagle, BA/82**, who is senior counsel to the Public Service Labour Relations Board.

Laura Robin, BJ/82, picked up the gold medal for best travel section in a newspaper under 350,000 circulation at the annual competition of the Society of American Travel Writers. She's travel editor at the *Ottawa Citizen*.

Stuart Colcleugh, BJ/86, was appointed assistant director of public affairs and media relations at Simon Fraser University and editor of *SFU News*. Stuart lives in North Vancouver, B.C.

Ann Tierney, BAHons/86, associate vice-president (student and academic support services) at Carleton University, has accepted the position of vice-provost (students) at the University of Calgary.

Laura Byrne Paquet, BJ/87, has taken first place for international destination features in the annual competition of the North American Travel Journalists Association.

Edward Keyes, MEng/87, chief technology officer, and **Sam Sgabellone, BCom/79**, vice-president, finance and chief financial officer, have been jointly appointed to interim office of CEO of Semiconductor Insights.

Andy Donovan, BA/88, recently left CNW Group to form his own consulting firm known as Donovan Consulting Group. He will be offering experience and expertise within the fields of business develop-

Alumni and students make a career connection

BY CINDY ROBINSON

More than 100 Carleton students and recent alumni received some real-world career advice from industry experts and members of the Carleton University Alumni Association (CUAA) at the new Career Connection Speaker Series that was launched this spring.

Spearheaded by the university's Career Development and Co-operative Education office (CDCE) in partnership with the CUAA, the series expands upon the existing Career Con-

nection program where alumni mentors share their professional work experiences with students who want to find out about employment options in a particular field of study, explains Dawn Legault, CDCE's director.

"The Career Connection Speaker Series is a great opportunity to engage even more students in this valuable mentoring program," she says. "It's an interactive, fun initiative that gives students the chance to learn about potential career paths and practise their networking skills at the same time."

The inaugural event in the series featured professional speaker and coach David Crisp, BA/68, who credits his Carleton degree with helping him succeed in seven different industries and careers in the business and non-profit sectors. Crisp told students about five simple but powerful principles they could use to become more effective leaders.

Students then had the chance to network with alumni mentors such as David Darwin, BCom/72, at a post-event reception.

"I love engaging the students and learning about their studies and career goals," says Darwin, who has provided advice to 11 Carleton students through the Career Connection program. "It's exciting to offer some guidance, encouragement and direction to these future workers."

Darwin says most of the students he has mentored have questions about working in the federal public service.

"They want to know how the staffing process works and how to get an interview. This naturally leads to a discussion about building and utilizing a network," he says, add-



Board of Governors member Margaret Dacey, right, provides some real-world career advice to Carleton students Michelle O'Brien, left, and Amanda MacDonald, centre, at the Career Connection Speaker Series, a new initiative spearheaded by the Career Development and Co-operative Education office in partnership with the Carleton University Alumni Association.

ment, fundraising and special events. He and his wife Alyson Chapman reside in Toronto.

Paul Brannen, BA/88, was named vice-president of marketing and sales at Coretec Inc. Brannen will assume the leadership role for Coretec's sales organization which has offices across North America and in the UK.

1990s



He works as a post production specialist and dubbing mixer in London, England.

Mike Wyeld, BA-Hons/91, completed the master's programme at the National Film and Television School, where he held both the British Academy of Film and Television Arts scholarship and a Shell scholarship.

Murray Milne, BA/92, retired after more than 40 years with the federal government in the RCMP and the Correctional Service of Canada, and remained in Saskatoon, SK. He now teaches criminal justice part time at a private community college. He and his wife Edna enjoy traveling and spending time with their grandchildren.

Patrick O'Reilly, BCom/92, was appointed to Carleton's Board of Governors and reports back to the Carleton University Alumni Association executive. O'Reilly joins fellow alumnus **Bruce Linton, BPA/92**, who was also recently appointed to the board.

Jason Howarth, BCom/93, has been appointed as a partner of McCay, Duff & Company LLP Chartered Accountants.

Taffe Charles, BA/94, has been named head coach of the Carleton University Ravens women's basketball program. He started in this position on May 14, 2007.

Paul Ferreira, BJ/96, was elected as the Member of Provincial Parliament for the Toronto-area riding of York South-Weston.

Kellylee Evans, BA/97, was nominated for a Juno for Vocal Jazz Album of the Year.

Johnathon Chapman, BCS/97, recently moved to Doha, Qatar where he is chief information officer for Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Qatar.

Jason Throop, BA/98, recently accepted a position as a tenure-track assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Paul Fitzgerald, BA/99, has joined Borden Ladner Gervais as an associate in the family law litigation practice group.

Andrew Redden, BAHons/99, graduated from the University of Guelph with a MSc in planning. He just celebrated his first wedding anniversary with his wife Meaghan. He is currently employed as Main Street Project Coordinator in Madoc, Marmora, Stirling & Tweed, ON.

Alumni can now register in any career or employment workshop free of charge, courtesy of the Career Development and Co-operative Education office. Kick-start your career aspirations today! Visit carleton.ca/cdce/career/ and click the Workshop Schedule link.

ing that he has created a website to help answer some of the frequently asked questions students have about becoming a civil servant.

The second event in the series featured Margaret Dacey, a current member of Carleton's Board of Governors and the former vice-president (human resources) at Cognos Incorporated. Dacey spoke to an attentive audience about the 10 skills of highly successful people — a discussion that proved enlightening to fourth-year commerce student Michelle O'Brien.

"I learned that it's important to take control of your own career, that no one is going to bring you to your dream job, and that you need to continue to work towards that destination on a continual basis," says O'Brien. "The highlight of the event was the chance to hear the story of someone who has been successful in the real world," she adds.

Legault says the Career Connection Speaker Series has proven to be a venue for an invaluable exchange of information that can guide the professional development of Carleton's students. In fact, the first two events were so successful that planning for the 2007-08 series is already underway, she says.

"Our goal is to help our students develop and refine their networking skills, assist them in building a professional network, and equip them with the tools to make successful career choices." ■

For information on how you can become a Career Connection alumni mentor, visit carleton.ca/alumni.



Carleton student Olga Kandaurova, left, pictured with alumni mentor Kate McGregor, right, BA/73, at the Career Connection Speaker Series.



David Crisp, BA/68, talking to Carleton students Olga Kandaurova and Jason Petrie at the Career Connection Speaker Series.

2000s

Steve Desroches, MA/00, was elected as a city councillor for the City of Ottawa and represents the Gloucester-South Nepean ward. He is the former senior resident for Dundas House.

Vincent Raynauld, PhD/01, has been awarded a David and Rachel Epstein Scholarship, one of the Carleton's most competitive awards for outstanding graduate students.

Andrew Caddell, MJ/02, has published an article in the current issue of *Policy Options* on his first visit to Canada's North. He flew to the Yukon to talk to various groups, including students, about the United Nations and Canada's role in it. He is the foreign affairs department's senior policy adviser on U.N. issues.

Jeffrey Laporte, BCom/02, recently moved from Ottawa to Timmins, ON, where he is the sales manager of the Credit Bureau of Timmins. His email is cbsales@ntl.sympatico.ca.

Lindsey Cole, BJ/06, joined *Peterborough This Week* as a news reporter. Cole will cover the crime and court beats for *This Week*.

Niall McKenna, MJ/06, directed and produced a short documentary called *Mikey* that aired on CBC News at Six. He was assisted by **Caitlin Salter MacDonald, BJ/06**.

Quillan Nagel, MA/07, won \$1 million USD in a poker tournament in the Bahamas.

BIRTHS

Del McIntee, BA/80, and **Anne Thomson, BAHons/85, MA/90**, are pleased to announce the birth of their second child Nolan James on June 12, 2005. He has an older sister Lynley.

Andrea Martin-Cook, BA/92, and **Tony Cook, BEng/93**, are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Zoe-Elizabeth Sydney on September 7, 2006 — a sister to Samuel and Benjamin. The family continues to reside in Ottawa where Tony is a senior project manager with PCL Constructors. They can be reached at tabszcook@sympatico.ca.

Michael New, MEng/93, and **Tomomi Matsuoka, MA/94**, are delighted to announce the birth of their first child, Takashi Matsuoka New. The family lives in Ottawa.

Melanie Smith, BAHons/96, and her husband Jason Vandale are delighted to announce the birth of their first child, Brady, on August 1, 2006. The couple lives in Toronto where Melanie is the managing director of Cossette Communications sponsorship marketing division, Fusion Alliance Marketing.

Michael Van Noort, BA/01, and **Jennifer Van Noort, BAHons/97**, are thrilled to announce the birth of their second child, Joshua Michael, born on July 26, 2006. Big sister Emily could not be happier.



See you at CU!



The first annual Carleton University Alumni Reunion on May 4-6, 2007, was a weekend filled with fun, nostalgia, networking and some fond CU memories. Alumni from the classes of 1957, 1962, 1967, 1982, 1997 and the Carleton College years revisited Carleton to reminisce, laugh and see how the campus has changed. View the full gallery of photos online at carletonreunion.com

Thanks to all for coming! It was a pleasure to "see you at CU!"



Ann Pepper, BA/57, and Patrick Ivay, BSc/57, share a hug and remember their days on campus.



Marc Garneau, Carleton's ninth chancellor — joined by Michael Weber, BScHons/84, (left), staff representative on the Board of Governors, and Kimberly Weber (right) — was out of this world as the keynote speaker at the anniversary dinner.



Friends from the class of 1962 flip through a yearbook and catch up on some fond memories — Suzanne Morrison-Dalglish, BJ/62, Rosalind Elson, BAHons/62, Carol Ermanovics, BA/62, (pictured from left to right).

MARRIAGES



Theresa Fritz, BJ/89, and **Scott Robinson, BSc/89,** were married on August 25, 2006. The ceremony was held outside at the couple's home in Carleton Place. Theresa is currently a senior reporter with The Performance Group of Companies and works for the

Kanata EMC, West Carleton EMC, Arrprior EMC and Stittville/Richmond EMC newspapers, based in Ottawa.



Andreas Sauer, BCom/03, and **Theresa Castle, BA/03,** were married on July 22, 2006 at Niagara-on-the-Lake. The couple resides in Toronto and looks forward to their move to London, UK, in the summer of 2007.

IN MEMORIAM

Helen Griff, former professor, on March 8, 2007.

Sydney Wise, professor emeritus, on March 8, 2007.

George E. McElwain, BA/51, on February 18, 2007.

Helen Ralston, PhD/73, on December 25, 2007.

Ina Hutchinson, MA/86, on March 12, 2007

Moneca Price (Blackwell), BAHons/86, BSc/86, on January 10, 2007.

Edward Osei-Kwadwo Prempeh, PhD/96, on March 3, 2007

Robert Garigue, PhD/05, on January 10, 2007.

Post your submission online today at magazine.carleton.ca

2007 alumni calendar

JUNE

**Carleton University Alumni Association
Convocation & Alumni Receptions**
June 12 – 15, 2007
Ottawa

**Hong Kong Affiliate
Canada D'eh Celebration**
June 30, 2007
Lan Kwai Fong, Hong Kong

JULY

**CURBAA Chapter
Sixth Annual Pat O'Brien
Golf Tournament**
July 9, 2007
Canadian Golf and Country Club,
Ashton, ON

AUGUST

**St. Patrick's College
Alumni Golf Tournament**
August 2, 2007
Kingsway Golf Course

SEPTEMBER

**Charlatan Affiliate
Alumni Workshops and
Softball Classic**
September 22 – 23, 2007
Carleton University

**Aquatics Night (tentative)
Women's Water Polo Chapter
Alumni meet**
Carleton Athletics pool

**Toronto Branch
Carleton Night with the Leafs**
Fall 2007
Air Canada Centre, Toronto

**Ottawa Branch
Carleton Night with the Senators**
Fall 2007
Scotiabank Place, Ottawa

**Department of Chemistry
60th Anniversary celebration**
Fall 2007
TBD

OCTOBER

**Bald Ravens Chapter
Ravens alumni vs. Gee Gees alumni**
October 6, 2007
Ice House & Oliver's Pub, Carleton
University

**House-Laughton Hoops Classic
Basketball Tournament**
October 12-14, 2007
Raven's Nest, Carleton University

**20th Anniversary of Women's Varsity
Water Polo
30th Anniversary of Men's Varsity
Water Polo**
Fall 2007
Carleton University Pool
Reception to follow (location TBD)

**Women's Soccer Chapter
Alumni Weekend**
Carleton University

**Men's Soccer Chapter
Alumni Weekend**
Carleton University

A new chapter for Arthur Kroeger College

The Executive Council of the Carleton University Alumni Association (CUAA) is delighted to announce the new Arthur Kroeger College Chapter.

This group received official chapter status in April. "Kroeger College alumni submitted a very strong proposal including a firm commitment to reaching out to alumni, and internally to current students. Congratulations to the Kroeger team for their submission and we welcome them on board." says Jane Gilbert, BJ/80, vice-president, chapters, CUAA.

The chapter, led by interim president Kellen Greenberg, BPAPM/04, will play a significant role in serving as a link between Carleton University, the college and its graduates.

Visit carleton.ca/alumni and click on **News** and **Events** for more information on upcoming events.

Alumni events winter 2007



Victoria Branch – FOCUS series event

On March 21, 2007, nearly 30 alumni attended this event where Trevor Findlay, associate professor of international affairs and director of Carleton's Centre for Treaty Compliance, discussed non-nuclear compliance crises.

Architecture Chapter – Spirit of the School

The Pit, at the School of Architecture, hosted an event on March 1 and 2, 2007, giving alumni a chance to reconnect with each other and the school. Thursday evening's panel discussion, featuring Yvan Cazabon, BArch/88, Titania Truesdale, BArch/02, MArch/05, and Barry Hobin, BArch/74, attracted over 80 attendees.

Washington Branch – FOCUS series event

Close to 30 alumni gathered in Washington on February 5, 2007 to hear Martin Rudner, director of the Canadian Centre of Intelligence and Security Studies, talk about trends in terrorism. Next spring Carleton is the host university for the 2008 All-Canada Alumni Event in Washington, D.C.

Ex Libris

We are pleased to present a listing of recent books by graduates of Carleton University.

The Sleep Not Trilogy

By Daryl Sharp, BSc/56, BJ/58

Not the *Big Sleep*: On having fun, seriously; On *Staying Awake*: *Getting Older and Bolder*; and *Eyes Wide Open*: *Late Thoughts*. These three books combine to create a sparkling love story. With candour, insight and humour, Sharp leads the reader through the many life, love and death issues that are part of everyone's journey.

Inner City Books (Toronto) 2007; \$22;
www.innercitybooks.net

The Ruby Kingdom

By Patricia Bow, BAHons/68

This is her third fantasy novel for young people. *The Ruby Kingdom* is book one in the *Passage to Mythrion* series.

Dundurn Group (Toronto) 2007; \$12.99;
www.dundurn.com

Harper's New Clothes: A Poetic Critique of Harper's "New" Government

By Walter J. Belsito, BA/70

Belsito gives his own spin on the tried-and-true *modus operandi* of political satire with this humorous critique of the first year of Stephen Harper's New Canada.

DreamCatcher Publishing (Saint John) 2007; \$14.95

Oliver Has Something To Say

By Pam Edwards (Robbins), BA/70

Her first book is a picture book for children.

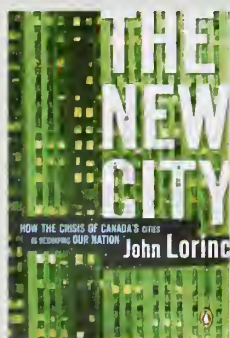
Lobster Press (Montreal) 2007; \$18.95;
www.lobsterpress.com

Enduring Faith: A History of Saint Patrick's Basilica Parish, Ottawa 1855-2005

By Fred McEvoy, BA/70, BAHons/71, MA/72

Saint Patrick's is the oldest English-speaking parish in Ottawa, established the same year that Ottawa was incorporated as a city. It was granted the status of a minor basilica in 1995. The book is based on archival research and incorporates historical and contemporary full colour photographs.

Saint Patrick's Basilica (Ottawa) 2006; \$29.95; 613-235-7963



Arctic Spirit: Inuit Art from the Albrecht Collection at the Heard Museum

By Ingo Hessel, BA/77

This is a catalogue of a major U.S. travelling exhibition of Canadian Inuit art, which features 190 works from an important American private collection housed at the Heard Museum in Phoenix, Arizona.

Douglas & McIntyre (Vancouver) 2006; \$65.00

The Emperor's New Hydrogen Economy

By Darryl McMahon, BCom/79

An examination of why the much-heralded hydrogen economy won't work as advertised, followed by what consumers and citizens can do to prepare themselves for the coming increases in energy prices. Many sustainable solutions drawing on the author's experiences are presented, showing how they are financially attractive at the household level.

iUniverse 2006; \$23.95;
www.econogics.com/TENHE/index.htm

The Syndetic Paradigm: The Untrodden Path Beyond Freud and Jung

By Robert Aziz, MA/81

The theoretical model that emerges in *The Syndetic Paradigm*, while taking up the concerns of its Freudian and Jungian predecessors with psychology, ethics, spirituality, sexuality, politics, and culture, conducts us to an experience of meaning that exceeds their respective bounds.

State University of New York Press (Albany) 2007; www.robertaziz.com

Off Centre

By Caroline Shepard, BA/81

This collection of short fiction was short listed for the Danuta Gleed Award in 2005. She is working on a second novel.

Oberon Press (Ottawa) 2004; www.oberonpress.ca

The New City: How the Crisis in Canada's Large Urban Centres is Re-shaping the Nation

By John Lorinc, BJ/88

Shaped by immigration, globalization and demographics, our hub cities demonstrate what's best about Canada: our commitment to education, tolerance, culture and innovation. Since the early 1990s, however, Canada's cities have witnessed the rapid emergence of troubling trends that threaten to undermine our much-envied quality of life.

Penguin Canada (Toronto) 2006; \$26.00;
www.penguin.ca



A Stone In My Pocket

By Matthew Manera, MA/91

It tells the story of a young woman, Gretchen Williamson, searching for her independence in Ontario in the 1850s. With effective research and engaging story telling, Manera's novel designs the catalysts that change Gretchen's life.

Thistledown Press (Saskatoon) 2006; \$19.95

Stealing Nasreen

By Farzana Doctor, MSW/93

Stealing Nasreen is about a doomed love triangle that involves a Canadian-born South Asian lesbian and a new immigrant married couple, Salma and Shaffiq. It addresses themes such as queer and cultural identities, psychotherapy, immigrant life and lost loves.

Inanna Publications (Toronto) 2007; \$22.95;
www.farzanadoctor.com

A Daytripper's Guide to Manitoba: Exploring Canada's Undiscovered Province

By Bartley Kives, MJ/96

The first comprehensive travel handbook to Manitoba is an indispensable tool for visitors and Manitobans who simply want to get to know their own back yard. Get the straight goods on cities, towns and natural attractions.

Great Plains Publications (Winnipeg) 2006; \$24.95; www.greatplains.mb.ca

The New Cold War: Revolutions, Rigged Elections and Pipeline Politics in the Former Soviet Union

By Mark MacKinnon, BJ/97

The New Cold War is the first book to show the recent wave of democratic revolutions (Serbia in 2000, Georgia in 2003, Ukraine in 2004 and Kyrgyzstan in 2005) for what they are — links in the same chain of American-orchestrated events and part of a renewed struggle for influence between Washington and Moscow.

Random House Canada (Toronto) 2007; \$34.95; www.markmackinnon.ca

Holding My Breath

By Sidura Ludwig, MJ/01

A classic coming-of-age story, *Holding My Breath* is also a rare debut that covers new literary ground: it launches the career of a Western writer exploring the Jewish experience from a female perspective.

Key Porter Books (Toronto) 2007; \$22.95;
www.keyporter.com

Art and War

By Laura Brandon, PhD/02

This is a truly encyclopaedic survey of artists' responses — both 'official' and personal — to 'the horrors of war'. *Art and War* reveals the sheer diversity of artists' portrayals of this most devastating aspect of the human condition.

I.B. Tauris (2007); \$24.50; www.ibtauris.com

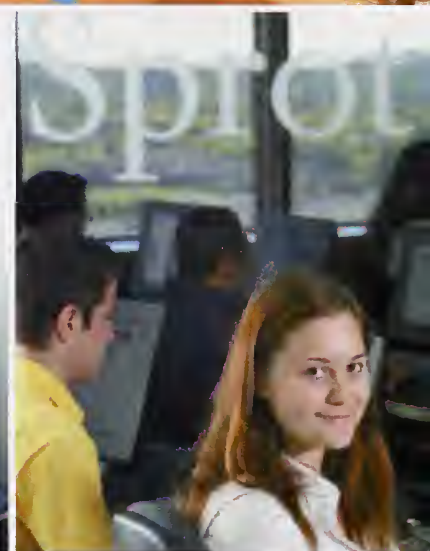


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Taking initiative in Rwanda

BY KRIS FOSTER

Hundreds of thousands of people were killed in the 1994 Rwanda genocide — the country, along with its media and journalism sectors, was devastated. On April 6, 2007, the anniversary of the beginning of the Rwanda genocide, Carleton University launched a new media-training program as part of its Rwanda Initiative — an ongoing journalism partnership with the National University of Rwanda (NUR).

"The Rwanda Initiative has been active for more than a year now, sending visiting lecturers to the university to help foster the next generation of journalists in Rwanda," says Allan Thompson, assistant professor at the Carleton School of Journalism and Communication and director of the Rwanda Initiative. In previous program efforts, the Rwanda Initiative has sent 16 journalists and 14 journalism students to the country.

"Now we are expanding the project to provide essential training and support for working journalists in a country where the media sector was devastated by the genocide and is still struggling to recover," says Thompson. The new program aims to support and train working journalists in Rwanda. With financial aid from the Canadian International Development Agency and Carleton International, the Rwanda Initiative has already

CTV News, Ottawa; Debra Black, reporter with the *Toronto Star*; Claude Adams, a veteran journalist who has worked with CBC and Global; Joan Leishman, documentary reporter with CBC's *The*

with close to a dozen other journalists and educators, travelled to Rwanda to take up posts as visiting lecturers at the NUR. A media internship program was also established last year when



Allan Thompson, assistant professor at the Carleton School of Journalism and Communication and director of the Rwanda Initiative

National; Gary Dimmock, an investigative reporter with the *Ottawa Citizen*; and Huguette Young, a journalism instructor at Carleton.

"There are so many Canadian jour-

more than a dozen Carleton journalism students made the trek to Rwanda and worked as media interns. There are plans to expand the internship program this coming year.

Earlier in the year, Canwest Global Communications Corp. funded the first phase of the 2007 program. The initial phase consisted of four visiting lecturers. Canwest also supported Lynn Farrell, photo editor at the *Montreal Gazette*, to travel to Rwanda to teach a photojournalism course.

With each program addressing a need of the journalism and media community in the country, the Rwanda Initiative hopes to help fix the shortage of journalists and journalism educators in Rwanda and strengthen the university's journalism program. Together, these steps will help improve the media standards in Rwanda.

For more information visit rwandainitiative.ca. ■

The Rwanda Initiative was able to send several senior Canadian journalists to Rwanda as visiting editors and reporters — giving Rwandan journalists the chance to work alongside their Canadian counterparts at print and broadcast media outlets.

been able to send several senior Canadian journalists to the central African country as visiting editors and reporters — giving Rwandan journalists the chance to work alongside their Canadian counterparts at various media outlets.

Some of the journalists sent over as part of this program include: John Honderich, former publisher of the *Toronto Star*; Scott Hannant, news director at

nalists out there who want to give something back, who want to make a contribution in a place like Rwanda," says Thompson.

The media-training program for working journalists builds on the journalism teaching partnership that was established last year with the NUR.

The teaching partnership, the first phase of the program, was launched in January 2006 when Thompson, along

Concerning communication

Fair representation of all Canadians in the media is something worth working toward. To this end, a generous local family has created a bursary in Carleton University's School of Journalism and Communication for students preparing for a media career.

Recently, the El-Aggan family made a gift of \$50,000 to the El-Aggan Family Muslim Community Award. The bursary will be awarded annually to an outstanding undergraduate student in the School of Journalism and Communication. Preference will be given to a female student who is active in the Muslim community, has financial need and is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada. The family's gift has been matched by the Ontario Trust for Student Support and will be worth approximately \$4,500 annually.

According to Fatma El-Mehelmy, the family's donation is in recognition of the significant contribution that Muslim Canadians make to society and of the need to enable a broader representation of all Canadians in the media. "We hope that this award to one of the best schools of journalism and communication will attract young Muslim Canadians to fairly represent their communities in the media, especially in the area of human rights."

The El-Aggan family immigrated from Egypt in 1990 and settled in Ottawa. Setting up shop in the basement

The family's donation is in recognition of the significant contribution that Muslim Canadians make to society and of the need to enable a broader representation of all Canadians in the media.

of their home, El-Aggan, his wife El-Mehelmy and their children slowly built their own software business ViaSafe. The company flourished and, in 2006, the family sold ViaSafe to a public company.

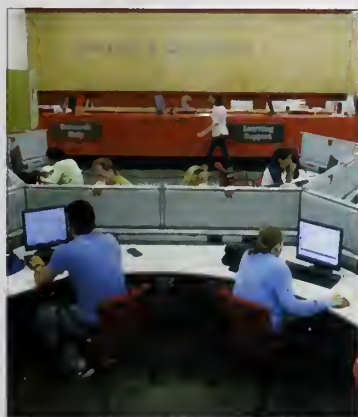
"We are very pleased that the El-Aggan family has chosen to support

students in our journalism and communication programs with generous bursaries," says Karim Karim, director, School of Journalism and Communication. "Human rights are a key part of the study of our two disciplines."

The first recipient will likely be selected for the 2007-08 school year. ■



The creation of the El-Aggan Family Muslim Community Award was announced at a special presentation. More than 50 faculty and students gathered to celebrate the award with the El-Aggan family including Fatma El-Mehelmy (right), President Samy Mahmoud (centre) and Professor Karim Karim (left).



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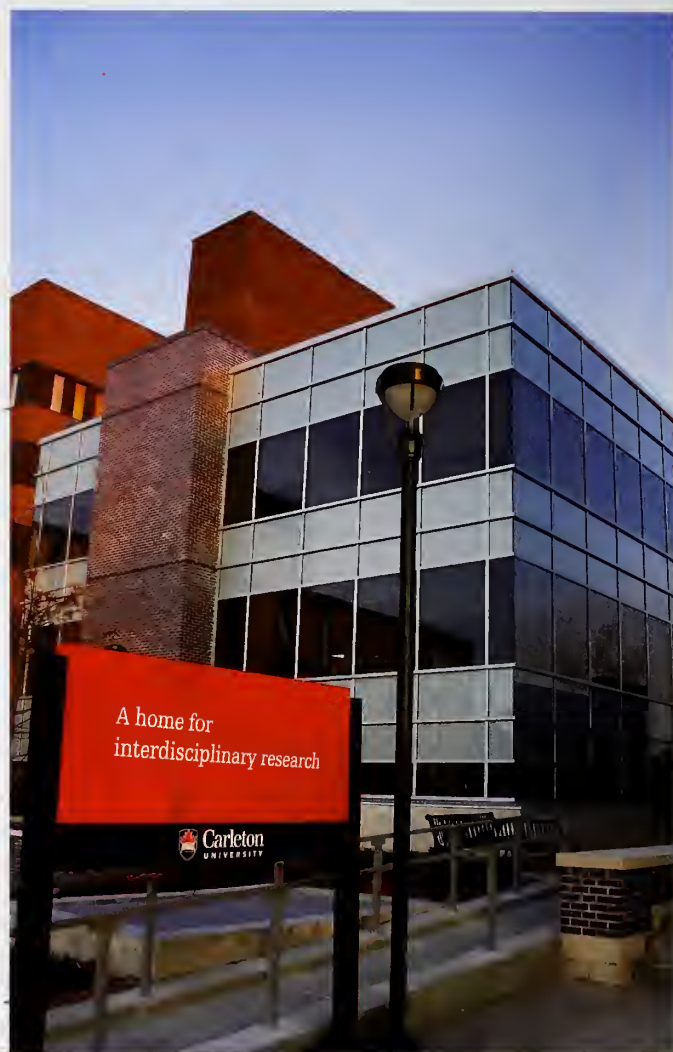
carleton.ca/alumni



Building the future

With the opening of two new buildings in January 2007, research in cognitive science and psychology got a new home on campus. The \$8-million Human Computer Interaction (HCI) Lab provides a multidisciplinary centre to explore how humans interact with computers, expanding on the research done in Carleton's Human Oriented Technology Lab. The other \$28-million building houses the Centre for Advanced Studies in Visualization, Simulation and Modeling (VSIM). Both were funded by the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the Ontario Innovation Trust and industry partners.

"VSIM provides the research infrastructure for unique training opportunities of students, and will have a significant international and Canadian presence," says Chris Herdman, scientific director of VSIM and professor of cognitive science and psychology. VSIM facilitates interdisciplinary work by integrating faculty from cognitive science, psychology, engineering and architecture. Both VSIM and HCI are built on strong partnerships with industry and government agencies.



Internationally recognized affairs

The Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA) received some well earned acclaim recently, with its master's program being ranked second only to that of Johns Hopkins University in Maryland. Tied with Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., the ranking puts NPSIA ahead of such ivy-league schools as Harvard (fourth) and Columbia University (fifth). Released in February, the rankings are the result of a survey of 110 international affairs scholars in Canada by the College of William and Mary in Virginia.

"This is a welcome endorsement from colleagues across the continent for the work that we do," says Fen Hampson, director of NPSIA. "It's always nice to get independent verification." Hampson adds that, "American scholars typically are much more

aware of what is happening in their discipline in the U.S. than elsewhere. So for Carleton, as a Canadian institution, to be recognized signals that our teaching and research are well-known and respected."

Established in 1965, NPSIA has made great efforts to stay apace with the changing international environment. There has been a marked increase in student interest in the areas of security and intelligence. NPSIA has recognized this and in response has initiated a new program stream.

Intelligence and national security will be available to incoming master's students in the 2007-08 academic year. This new program cluster will offer courses on timely aspects of security including international security in the post-cold

war era, national security and intelligence policy, counter-terrorism, and the consideration of human rights in addressing security concerns. The new stream will also offer students a course on the economics of defence, procurement, deterrence and terrorism, among other things.

Dane Rowlands, NPSIA's associate director, believes the school's recent ranking indicates the success of the ongoing review and development of the master's program in meeting the needs of students and maintaining a quality program. "In part due to our location in Ottawa, we are so embedded in the real world of international events and issues that we can identify the trends and respond with revisions in the program."

View the survey at carleton.ca/npsia.

Introducing the deans

Two deans were recently appointed at Carleton University: Rafik Goubran, PhD/87, as the dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Design; and George Katsushi Iwama, as the dean of the Faculty of Science.

Goubran has served as acting dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Design at Carleton since July 2006. His permanent appointment is effective July 1, 2007, and is for a five-year term.

"An absolutely outstanding teacher and graduate supervisor, Dr. Goubran will continue to bring his extensive academic, administrative and industry experience to our fast-growing Faculty of Engineering and Design. We are delighted that Dr. Goubran accepted the appointment as dean," says Samy Mahmoud, president and vice-chancellor *pro tempore*.

On the heels of this announcement, Iwama, an internationally respected research biologist and academic administrator, also joined the Carleton leadership team. Iwama comes to Carleton from Acadia University where he was acting vice-president (academic). His appointment is effective July 1, 2007 and is for a six-year term.

"His international reputation, and ties to the scientific and government communities, will greatly enhance the progress made by his predecessor, Jean-Guy Godin, who is completing a successful five-year term as dean," says Mahmoud.

Iwama says Carleton's reputation as a leading research institution and its strong commitment to the learning experience attracted him to the position. "The research undertaken at Carleton University is well established with an excellent reputation on the world stage, and I am enormously proud and honoured to join the team at the university," says Iwama.

Meet our newest VP

Psychology professor Kim Matheson was appointed acting vice-president (research and international) on March 1, 2007.

"She will bring to this position tremendous experience as an outstanding researcher and academic administrator," says Samy Mahmoud, president and vice-chancellor *pro tempore*.

Matheson joined the Department of Psychology in 1990 as a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Canada Research Fellow. As chair of the department from 1997 to 2003, she presided over the largest academic unit at the university. She served for two terms on University Senate, is currently secretary of the FASS Faculty Board and a member of the Task Force on Planning and Priorities.

An accomplished researcher and graduate supervisor, Matheson is the author of more than 100 conference presentations and refereed papers. Her research spans issues in the social and health sciences, as well as public policy. Matheson says she very much looks forward to her new role at the university. "The Carleton research enterprise involves such a fabulous range of issues and approaches, I'm looking forward to working with the Carleton research community and our partners."

Matheson replaces Feridun Hamdullahpur in an acting capacity while he serves as interim provost and vice-president (academic).



Application increase



Ontario application figures, released by the Council of Ontario Universities, show Carleton's first choice applications increased by

11.3 per cent, above the system average increase of 5.2 per cent. Of the 79,568 Ontario secondary school students applying to Ontario universities, 3,813 selected Carleton as their preferred academic choice. Carleton received a total of 16,966 Ontario applications for its 4,700 first-year spaces for the 2007-08 academic year.

"These numbers show that Carleton's unique mix of programs is in high demand," says Ann Tierney, BAHons/86, associate vice-president (student and academic support services). "While a complete program-by-program breakdown is still being compiled, the preliminary figures show above the system average increases across each of Carleton's five undergraduate faculties."

The introduction of new programs and the increased involvement of faculty members in the recruitment process are some of the reasons singled out for the increase. "News of our investments in improving the student experience, especially in the crucial first year, is starting to get out and these efforts are having a direct impact on our application numbers," notes Tierney.

The search is on

The search for Carleton University's tenth president and vice-chancellor has officially started. The Board of Governors recently assembled a presidential search committee, consisting of 10 members — up from the six members on the last presidential search committee.

The first task assigned to the committee was to develop a profile of

the ideal candidate as well as a position description. David Dunn, BArch/76, chair of the Board of Governors, says this part of the process will include input from students, faculty and staff, and the alumni association.

The search committee launched a website that allowed the university community to suggest criteria to consider when developing the profiles. The final profile will be approved at the

end of May.

"Searching for Carleton University's next president is an important task," says Nancy Lynn, BA/91, director of Alumni Services. "I am pleased that there was a forum that gave alumni the chance to express their opinions about this process and help determine the qualities that are important for a presidential candidate to possess."

Dunn says that the goal is to have a new Carleton president in place by July 2008.



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100,000 reasons to be afraid

BY ESTHER MBITHI

On March 11, 2007, the *Sunday Nation* — the sister newspaper to the *Daily Nation*, the most widely read daily in Kenya — carried the banner headline “100,000 Reasons to be Afraid” followed by the words “and each of them is a gun in the wrong hands.” This headline followed a spate of fatal shootings in which prominent Kenyans were senselessly gunned down. Unfortunately, guns are not Kenya’s only problem. In fact, whereas Kenya and the African continent lag behind in areas such as education, development, standard of living, technology and research, in the area of violence I think we are way ahead of the pack.

And the real tragedy lies not in the number of reported casualties, but in the fact that for decades the most heinous forms of violence have been hushed up and lightly brushed off in

the interest of self-preservation and family honour. I have in mind gender-based violence, which is often perpetrated with the tacit approval of the establishment under the guise of cultural norms and traditional practices.

The bad news is that we have brought this violence upon ourselves as a society. Talking and writing about it will not make it disappear. We must deal with the root cause of the problem: the way we raise and socialize our children.

There was a time, for example, when rape was not a crime in Kenya but rather an achievement of sorts, an act of chastisement. All a man had to do was pick a woman at random, declare her wantonly dressed, and proceed to punish her for her sense of style. Dissenting voices were few and far between, and they were dismissed with much scorn.

And so reported cases of rape became rare. Collectively we heaved a sigh of relief, pretending that the devil had been vanquished. As a result,

we raised a whole generation of men on the mistaken belief that rape is an exalted indication of male virility. With our heads contentedly buried in the sand, we created and nurtured a monster. Even now, there still isn’t a day that goes by without the monster striking. We witness the most private parts of our mothers, sisters, wives and daughters being desecrated and their future destroyed by the monster we created.

The rising crime rate and the increasing violence of the crimes committed are both clear signs of the chickens coming home to roost. As a society, we are now paying the price for the moral lapses of our past. As long as society continues to make excuses for what are clearly unpardonable sins, we will continue to pay the price. ■

Esther Mbithi, MA/93, is a member of the editorial advisory committee of Carleton University Magazine. Residing in Nairobi, Kenya, Esther is our committee’s first international member.



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